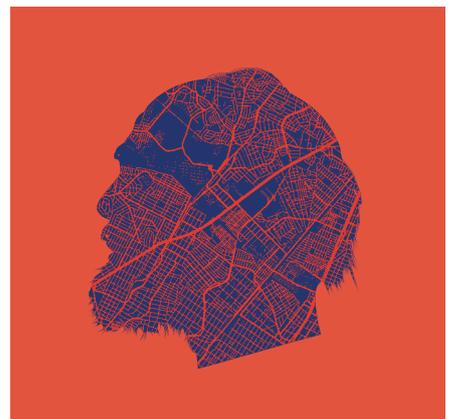


# REPORT OF THE PRESIDENCY 2017-2019



**From listen  
to cities,  
to cities are  
listening**





# **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENCY 2017-2019**

From listen to cities, to cities are listening

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# FROM LISTEN TO CITIES, TO CITIES ARE LISTENING



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**FROM LISTEN  
TO CITIES,  
TO CITIES ARE  
LISTENING**

**T**hroughout the three years of the Presidency, our joint work has had the outcome of Bogotá, and the localization of the Global Development Agendas, at the core of our joint action. The work of the World Organization has been balanced between strengthening participation and the involvement of all parts of the network, sections and member-led initiatives, on the one hand; and international work, continuing to consolidate relations with other networks and being the face and voice of local government in numerous global forums, on the other hand.

**In 2017**, our focus was to enhance the union and the synergies within the network to be able to respond to a changing world, and doing so throughout strengthened consultation mechanisms and sections that can invigorate the World Secretariat.

**2018 was our year of partnerships**, during which we expanded an enhanced our collaborations with sister organizations and brought new partners on board in order to ensure that our members do not have to face the global challenges by themselves.

During 2019, UCLG has **consolidated its visibility in the international scene, in particular through enhanced negotiations with all stakeholders**. We have worked to strengthen our policymaking in particular through the establishment of the UBUNTU advisory board, and by focusing on co-creating policy at the World Congress.

The results of this effort can be seen in consolidation of our consultation mechanisms, and in the birth of our **UCLG Policy Councils**, which have been essential to further debates among our members and other constituencies, which have enabled us to develop dialogues with national governments and mainstream thematic issues such as peacebuilding, the ecological transition, and the right to the city throughout the entire network.

Our focus on developing joint action has given birth to our **UCLG Waves of Action**, whose first iteration culminated in a positive tide on **Housing, Migration and Local Finance**. 40 cities and metropolitan entities joined the Cities for Adequate Housing Declaration, asking to make a shift from commodity to human right. 16 cities have joined our programme on Migration in the Mediterranean, cities that have originated the wave that culminated into inputs towards



the Global Compact on Migration. The International Municipal Investment Fund, originated due to our Wave of Action on Local Finance, has mobilised over 20 cities that have joined the Community of Practice on this topic.

Our presence at the HLPF over the last years has grown, from presenting our report on the localisation of the SDGs on behalf of the Global Taskforce—starting in 2017— to co-creating, with Local 2030, a space for interaction with stakeholders and **the Local and Regional Governments’ Forum**, which took place for the first time in 2018 at the HLPF, and again in 2019 at the SDG Summit. This first LRGF was momentous occasion with important political impact, which is expected to transform into policy influence in the coming years.

With the **localization** of the global agendas at the core of our work, the three editions of our report on Local and Regional Governments on the way *Towards the Localization of the SDGs* presented to the HLPF have showcased our involvement in the global agendas, have gathered inputs from our membership’s views and experience, and has grown to incorporate perspectives from organizations active in the Global Taskforce which, in turn, has allowed the GTF to consolidate and grow as the instrument that amplifies the voices of Local and Regional Governments around the world, and further exemplifies UCLG and its membership’s determination to mobilize the means required to implement the 2030 Agenda through revitalized partnerships.

During our World Congress, we will present the 5th Global Report on Local Democracy and Decentralization, focused on the localization of the SDGs, which has mobilised dozens of experts across the different world regions whose findings have fed our different work areas.

Our role as Learning Network has been enhanced with the training of trainers dimension, with the development, together with various stakeholders, of our Learning Modules to localize the SDGs, and with our focus on decentralized cooperation. The Learning Forum that has taken place during the Congress will prove to be essential to innovate, to work in partnership, and to develop learning methodologies that can enhance ownership of the 2030 Agenda.

### Partnerships to achieve the global agendas

The World Organization is consolidating the partnerships that have been developed with international organizations and civil society during the process of negotiation of the World Agendas. Beyond maintaining our existing collaborations with sister organizations like ICLEI and the other members of the Global Taskforce but also with new partners such as: International IDEA, the International Union for Public Transport, the Cities Programme of the Global Compact and others.

Our UCLG Retreat has grown into an essential moment to showcase how the municipal movement can achieve the global agendas. Throughout these three years, it has allowed us to shape our joint priorities, expand synergies among the network, and bring partners to the table. Our statutory meetings, our Executive Bureau and our World Council, have also evolved into policymaking meetings, enhanced by the gathering of our Policy Councils and by our political debates that have guided and focused our path.

Last but not least, it is worth highlighting the important step forward of the regional networks through the UCLG Sections which have dramatically

increased activities in every continent, providing visibility but also learning and networking opportunities.

### What is next for our Movement?

We have worked to ensure not just that cities have been listened to, but to provide spaces in which all stakeholders are included. We are transforming our very own Congress, the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders, into a space in which joint policy is created, among our entire constituency but also among all stakeholders that are gathered at our table.

To renew our leadership, to ensure that our movement enters the next decade in the best possible shape we have updated our institutional rules and our good governance procedures, we have designed an all-UCLG gender strategy that puts gender equality at the centre of our priorities, and we have renewed our renewed policies on migration, housing, the ecological transition and city diplomacy, with the help of our consultation mechanisms, and with the inputs from our regional sections.



# 1

## ADVOCACY

**United Cities and Local Governments has amplified the voices of local and regional governments at the most strategic moments of the international agenda. As the constituency of local and regional governments that is most affected by the implementation of the NUA, we have a particular interest in the renewed UN-Habitat Assembly.**



## BACKGROUND

**THE STRONG DELEGATIONS AND SOLID INPUTS TO THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM HAS ALLOWED FOR A STRONG PUSH TOWARDS ESTABLISHING A DIALOGUE BETWEEN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, national governments and the UN system with as final objective the recognition of the role that our constituency needs to play in the global development agendas.**

In particular, the celebration of a **Local and Regional Governments' Forum**, within the framework of the HLPF and the SDG Summit, has been an incredible achievement for our constituency. The formal seat at the table within the UN system has allowed us to open up a space for dialogue at the highest level, bringing all stakeholders to the table, and allowing us to lay out our priorities and

The **Seville Commitment**, which builds on our work on bringing together different spheres of government that originated the LRGF, and that was promoted by our constituency, has kickstarted a local-global movement to expand and secure localization. Local and regional leaders, national governments, and the international system came together with the sole goal of expanding localization to ensure we meet the universal development agendas.

Enhancing dialogue among spheres of government has been a constant priority throughout the duration of the Presidency. One of our most important aims throughout these three years has been to hold dialogues between local and regional leaders, and ministers

and members of national governments, which has been taking place even during our statutory meetings. Our **Executive Bureau** in Strasbourg, in particular, held high-level meetings under the framework of UNACLA and our Policy Councils, and our statutory meetings have grown to become prime examples of our policymaking.

UCLG has also been co-conveners, together with C40, of **Urban 20**, an initiative that strives to develop joint positions among mayors of G20 cities to inform and enrich the discussions of G20 national leaders, providing the expertise and visions of major cities in global development issues.

The 9th edition of the World Urban Forum (WUF), which took place in Kuala Lumpur, was the first session to focus on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. A delegation of representatives of local and regional governments mobilized at the **World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments** to evaluate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

The celebration of the first **UN-Habitat Assembly**, which was spearheaded by the President of United Cities and Local Governments with his presence at the Panel, has been integral for the renewal of the organ, as well as for the integration of our constituency at the highest level of the urban dimension of the UN.

Through our presence and our actions at the leading for a on sustainable development and climate, such as **UNEA-4** and the various iterations of the COPs, UCLG has also been working on showcasing the added value of our climate strategy that considers all cities and regions as integral who need to take the lead towards an ecological transition and the recognition of our role in achieving the climate agendas, and for the need to carry out a true ecological transition that shifts our patterns of production and consumption to ensure that we are able to fulfil the global goals.

Our presence at the Financing for Development fora have been an extension of our burgeoning strategy on localizing finance. During these fora, we have pushed for the inclusion of **local and regional governments in the decision-making process of the FfD Forum**, and presented our publications "Subnational governments around the world - Structure and finance".





**1.1  
2030 DEVELOPMENT  
AGENDA**

**Our Constituency before  
the United Nations**

**THROUGHOUT THESE LAST THREE YEARS, UCLG HAS ENDEAVOURED TO AMPLIFY THE VOICES AND THE PRESENCE** of local and regional governments at the highest level of the UN. As facilitators of the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, we have brought our “Towards the Localization of the SDGs” report, through the Global Taskforce, for the past three years, and been a part of the Local 2030 Hub, a multi-stakeholder hub led by the United Nations Secretary-General’s Executive Office to **catalyze solutions and accelerate the implementation of the SDGs.** It aims to foster innovative partnerships and an action-oriented model for SDG implementation that will allow local actors to deliver more at scale, identify and address significant gaps and overcome barriers to progress.

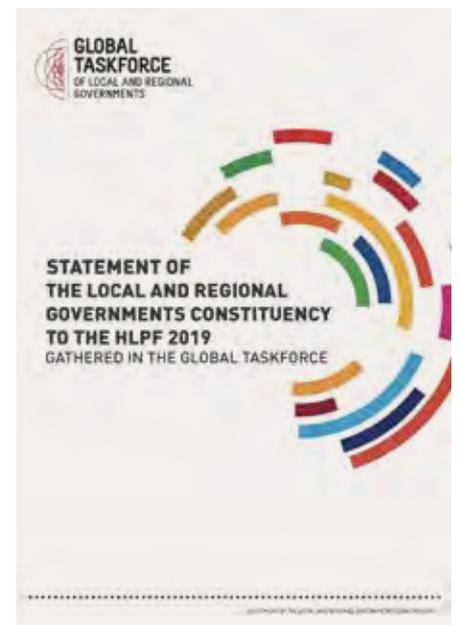
The Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, facilitated by UCLG, has worked on joint positions and set the priorities for the various HLPFs. Trough the **Statement of the Local and Regional Governments issued by Global Taskforce,** we have called on the United Nations’ System to not leave local governance and territorial cohesion behind. We have also called on the

need for local and regional governments to be able to **access funding in order to own the 2030 Agenda.**

**Our presence before the UN** also allowed us to advocate for the adoption of new models of governance that involve all spheres of government. Models of governance that are, in turn, essential to foster the inclusion of local communities and ensuring that no-one, nowhere, is being left behind. We have also called on the UN to **promote the implementation of other development agendas -such as the New Urban Agenda- and the linkages between them to accelerate the Global Goals.**

We have brought forward the commitments of the local and regional governments, showcasing how, through basic service provision, it is the local sphere the one that is carrying out change and working to achieve the global goals, and called on the UN system to go a step further and to secure spaces of dialogue between spheres of government in further editions of the HLPF.

Our call for a formal seat at the global table was heard, in particular, in the celebration of the first **Local and Regional Governments’ Forum, a petition of our constituency,** co-organised by the Global Taskforce and the Local 2030 Initiative. This first LRGF was momentous occasion with important political impact, which is expected to transform into policy influence in the coming years. Housing, financing, equality, accountable institutions and enhanced partnerships, which have been at the forefront of our priorities, were also key during these days. We have followed-up



on the LRGF in 2019, with a second iteration in the framework of the UN SDG Summit, and we have proven to be essential partners for transformation at the first UN-Habitat Assembly, also counted on a Local and Regional Governments' Forum.

During both iterations of the **Local and Regional Governments' Forum**, participants have advocated towards enhancing local involvement in the SDG strategies and reporting processes both at national and international level; they showcased the effectiveness of integrated territorial planning in building resilient and inclusive communities, and **highlighted the need to re-thinking financing at the local and regional spheres, and to set up an effective monitoring system at the local level. They further highlighted the importance of creating adequate frameworks to protect the right to housing as pillar for achievement of SDG 11 and called for the empowerment of women and strong, resourced local governments as underlying key factor for most goals.**

The 2018 HLPF allowed our constituency to have unique opportunity for the highest level of the international system, represented by Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations, Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of UN Habitat as well as the ECOSOC President and representatives of the President of the General Assembly to engage in a closed-doors exchange on priorities from the different parts of the world, further **contributing to further our collective strength before the United Nations.**

The second iteration of the **Local and Regional Governments' Forum, which took place within the SDG Summit** addressed the way forward and expectations of the constituency during the so-called Acceleration Era. It paid special attention to the links between the climate emergency and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Throughout the day of exchanges, participants pledged to promote and allocate the financial tools necessary to support localization across all territories, on local and regional levels, via integrated approaches to sustainable development. Dialogues across all spheres of global governance will continue to be promoted.

## Cementing a local-global movement for the localization of the SDGs – The Seville Commitment

**2019 MARKED THE FIRST QUADREN-NIAL REVIEW OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS** through the **SDG Summit**, and the year kicked off with a high-level international meeting in Seville to discuss the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Throughout the two days of high-level dialogue among spheres of government regarding the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, the outcomes culminated in the **Seville Commitment**, which reaffirmed the need for cooperation among spheres of government and local communities to find real local solutions for global challenges.

All participants reiterated their commitments to the 2030 Agenda,

agreeing that an effective localization of the agenda must be based on local contexts, and implemented by citizens of local and regional governments so as not to leave anyone or any place behind. The synergy produced by the diverse and fruitful debates was fully harnessed to reach **a commitment to consolidate and focus the efforts in taking the next step in the Local-Global movement to localize the 2030 Agenda** with local governments, civil society, and other local actors at the forefront.



## 1.2 NEW URBAN AGENDA

The role of local and regional governments within a renewed UN-Habitat



**OVER THE COURSE OF THESE PAST THREE YEARS, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR CONSTITUENCY AND UN-HABITAT** has been part of our ambitions for securing a seat at the table for local and regional governments. UCLG, through president **Parks Tau**, and Co-President and Mayor of Paris **Anne Hidalgo**, was part of the **Independent Panel to Assess and Enhance Effectiveness of UN-Habitat after the Adoption of the New Urban Agenda**. The panel was charged with drawing up a report making recommendations on enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency, accountability and oversight of UN-Habitat. UCLG has continued its work on securing **a seat at the global table** for local and regional governments within the UN System. One important dimension of this ambition is **the relationship of our constituency with UN-Habitat** in the context of the UN review of the functions and governance mechanisms of the agency.

The Panel acknowledged that the UN System has failed to recognize the “fundamental role” played by local governments in urban development. The report recommended a governance system in which all spheres of government, including local and regional governments, play a strong role in policy development, in close partnership with civil society and other actors. More specifically, it called for **a formal role for a Local Government Committee in a renewed UN-Habitat governance structure**.

In New York, the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments met to adopt a **joint statement** on the report of the Independent Panel. The statement **welcomed the proposal to set up UN Urban** and supported the call for the issue of urbanization to be mainstreamed across the UN. In this regard, the statement highlighted the need

for an integrated territorial approach to urbanization to bridge the artificial urban-rural divide. It also **reiterated the Global Taskforce’s long standing call for the governmental status of local and regional governments to be recognized through an enhanced status in the UN system**. Finally, it called on the 2nd Committee of the UN General Assembly to set out a clear, transparent roadmap to complete the third phase of the follow-up and review process as defined in paragraph 173 of the New Urban Agenda.

The outcome of this process has been the first **UN-Habitat Assembly**, which took place in Nairobi, replacing the traditional UN-Habitat Governing Council. Our **constituency of local and regional governments welcomed the universal membership of the Assembly**, gathering all Member States on decision-making on urban development, however **pleading for a differentiated and structural mechanism of consultation of local governments within the new UN-Habitat governance structure**. The Assembly has seen the constitution of the first UN Habitat Executive Board composed of 36 countries that will have the policy oversight in between Assemblies.

During the week-long UN-Habitat Assembly, the delegation of the Global Taskforce, facilitated by UCLG, actively participated in side-events and multilevel and high-level dialogues which included, **for the first time ever in the framework of UN-Habitat governing bodies meeting, a Local Governments’ Forum**, in the presence of the UN-Habitat Executive Director, **Maimunah Mohd Sharif**. The Forum gathered the representatives of the organized constituency from all world regions active in local government networks such as CLGF and ICLEI, AIMF,

CEMR, UCLG-ASPAC and UCLG-Africa.

A clear commitment of the constituency to contribute to the global dialogue and action for sustainable development was put forward. The wish to develop a transformational policy agenda for the better life of the communities was central in the joint statement of the constituency.

Local governments called to improve municipal infrastructure finance, create an enabling environment and strengthen effective multilevel governance, in order to allow local and regional governments to contribute to global sustainability. In order to put cities and regions at the centre of international decision-making processes, the World Assembly called to **embark on a new era of partnership in global governance and renew the relationship between our constituency and the UN**.



The LRG Constituency at the World Urban Forum

THE 9TH EDITION OF THE WORLD URBAN FORUM (WUF), WHICH TOOK PLACE IN KUALA LUMPUR, WAS THE FIRST SESSION TO FOCUS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW URBAN AGENDA. A delegation of representatives of local and regional governments mobilized at the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments to evaluate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

The Statement of the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments affirmed our positioning, together with civil society, as guardians of the Habitat III legacy and as those best positioned to monitor its implementation.

UCLG was the representative of local and regional governments in the Advisory Board in charge of drafting the conclusions of the event to be submitted to the UN Habitat Council under the title, "Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Cities 2030".

Local governments called to improve municipal infrastructure finance, create an enabling environment and

strengthen effective multilevel governance, in order to allow local and regional governments to contribute to global sustainability. In order to put cities and regions at the centre of international decision-making processes, the World Assembly called to embark on a new era of partnership in global governance and renew the relationship between our constituency and the UN, within a broader context of UN reform.





1.3

**OUR CONSTITUENCY BEFORE THE G20 AND URBAN 20**

**U20 IS NOT A NEW NETWORK OF CITIES, BUT RATHER A FORUM IN WHICH CITIES DEVELOP COLLECTIVE MESSAGES AIMED AT ENHANCING THE PRESENCE OF URBAN AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TOPICS IN THE G20 AGENDA.** UCLG is, together with C40, the co-convenor of the initiative, and has an active role in supporting the U20 chairs in delivering the objectives, meetings and outcome documents, and ensuring the link between U20 agendas and positions, and those of the rest of the constituency.

The first **Urban Mayor Summit** took place in Buenos Aires addressing, among its priority topics, climate action, the future of work, and social integration and inclusion. Other relevant topics addressed were: women empowerment, food security, access to finance, and infrastructure for development.

The second iteration of the U20 Summit took place in May 2019, with the main topics being the role of cities in housing, education, healthcare and infrastructure, as well as how the joint actions of cities could face the world's challenges.

The outcomes of the two editions of Urban 20 were Communiqués with the joint positions of the 35 mayors gathered in U20 by mayor of Buenos Aires **Horacio Larreta** and Governor of Tokyo **Yuriko Koike** in 2018 and 2019 respectively to the Heads of the G20 each year, the Prime Ministers of Japan and Argentina.



1.4

CLIMATE AND RESILIENCE AGENDA

UCLG HAS WORKED TO COMPLEMENT ITS SISTER NETWORKS AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS THAT ARE FOCUSED ON CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION. Our work, as the largest global network of local and regional governments, has been centred on developing a climate strategy that considers all cities and regions, and developing a narrative that calls for cities and regions to take the lead towards an ecological transition.

The sustainable service provision delivered by local and regional governments is the testimony that we cannot be mere witnesses, and that we need to push for a greater recognition of our role in the accomplishment of the Paris Agreement, and for greater commitments from all stakeholders to turn it into a reality. Our regional sections have endeavoured to ensure ownership of climate action.

UCLG is also a founding member of the **Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM)**, an international alliance of cities and local governments that shares a vision to boost voluntary action to upscale the struggle against Climate change, and transition towards a low-emission and resilient society. Efforts to ensure ownership of climate action across or Network have taken place through our membership in GCoM and our regional sections.

Throughout these three years, our constituency has always advocated for ensuring coherence and building interlinkages among all of the international agendas, since they will only be achieved, together, through localization. This is why we have pushed for the **localization of climate finance** in gatherings such as the **Climate Chance World Summit**, which further provided the opportunity to **open up the debate on how non-State actors can bring their own recommendations to the facilitation dialogue in 2018.**

The **Talanoa Dialogues** have been designed to foster the proactive implications of all parties in the achievement of the Paris Agreement, by helping countries implement and enhance their Nationally Determined Contributions, sharing stories and experiences, as well as by maintaining dialogues so others can benefit from them. Through the **Cities and Regions**

**Talanoa Dialogues**, facilitated by our constituency, we aim to translate the global processes into concrete local realities in order to enhance the presence of local and regional governments in the climate agenda, and practice the implementation of the Paris Agreement by and connecting it with other sustainability agendas.

The fourth edition of the United Nations' Environmental Assembly held, for the first time, a **Cities Summit**, which our constituency of Local and Regional Governments will continue to work on as a critical component of future UN Environment Assemblies, to continue highlighting the importance of localizing the SDGs and allow for engagement of sub-national leaders into the global environmental policy decision-making.





**Cities and Regions listen to Science**

**CONVENED BY THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON CLIMATE CHANGE (IPCC)**, and co-organized by different networks of local and regional governments, the Cities IPCC Conference took place in Edmonton, CA, with the aim **to establish a global research agenda working to address the key gaps by the academic, practitioner and city policy makers.**

The partner organizations released the Joint Statement **“The Science We Need For The Cities We Want: Working together to implement the global research and action agenda on cities and climate change”**, describing how to work together in order to support the implementation of the climate agenda.

The Global Climate Action Summit brought together stakeholders (from national spheres of government to the private sector) from all over the world, including over 100 local elected

leaders, with the goal of accelerating actions towards achieving the Paris Agreement. The stakeholders gathered in San Francisco issued the **Call to Global Climate Action**, calling for collaborative and transformative actions at all levels and in all sectors of society in order to fulfil the commitments acquired during COP21.

The Call to Global Climate Action called to accelerate climate action by:

- a. Committing to increased climate ambition and updated, enhanced, Nationally Determined Contributions by the year 2020
- b. Charting a Clear Path to developing net-zero climate emissions by mid-century, and committing towards a long-term economic and technological transformation that ensures decent jobs and increased resilience
- c. Empowering bottom-up climate action, via supporting and accelerating climate action at local and regional levels.

**Local action at the Conference of the Parties**

**UCLG HAS WORKED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CLIMATE ROADMAP**, facilitated by ICLEI, to enhance the influence of members in the international negotiation process through two key strategies: **enhancing the formal role of local authorities in the negotiation process and developing the partnership between local authorities and civil society.**

**COP 23**, organized under the presidency of the Fiji Islands, was hosted by the Government of Germany and the City of Bonn. UN Member States gathered to advance the implementation of the Paris Agreement in terms of transparency, adaptation, emission reductions, finance, capacity building and technology.

With our organization playing a key role in the organization and mobilization of different events, UCLG sent a strong delegation of around 60 local

and regional leaders to advocate for the role of local and territorial action in combatting climate change. The key innovation of **COP23** was the organization of the **Climate Summit of Local and Regional Leaders**, organised by ICLEI and with the support of the Global Taskforce.

The Summit, which concluded with the conveying of the messages of the **Bonn-Fiji Commitment of Local and Regional Leaders**, addressed four key themes: Mainstreaming Climate and Sustainability among all sectors; Collaborative climate action: Forging ahead through community engagement & Integrated planning and sustainable investments in cities and regions; Joining forces for transboundary climate action; and Raising the bar through coordinated action across all levels of government.

**COP24** negotiations came at the tail end of a year marked by unprecedented increase in temperatures in all continents, as well as natural disasters affecting local populations at an unprecedented large scale. The release of the IPCC special report on

1.5 degrees, prior to COP24, added a sense of urgency to the tail-end of the year, with a severe warning that that even a 1.5-degree scenario comes with significant global impacts: up to 69 million people exposed to flooding and 15 percent of the population exposed to severe heat.

At COP24, a delegation of **80 local and regional leaders** from all world regions brought their commitment towards deep transformation, while calling on nations to **translate global momentum into political decisions and actions that achieve higher climate ambitions**.

Together with local and regional leaders from all international networks of local and regional governments from the Global Taskforce, as well as our own UCLG Sections and Members, CEMR, UCLG Africa and Climate Chance, brought our joint commitments to **develop thoughtful, transformative work to fully develop an ecological transition and shift the current trends that are pushing us towards climate disaster**, and continue to commit doing the thoughtful, transformative work

required to create a serious and steady shift towards the ecological transition that should maintain a well-balanced use of our natural resources.

**At Katowice, our constituency called on heads of states and ministers to make unambiguous and significantly bolder mitigation commitments that align with the 1.5-degree target, and reflect the emissions reductions potential of cities. In Katowice, local and regional governments made a plea for a clear decision that this process will be integrated into the Paris Agreement implementation rules, securing our place as vital and active partners in both pre-2020 and post-2020 conversations.**





**THE UN ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY (UNEA)** is a Member-States Assembly convened by the UN Environment Programme that meets every two years to set priorities for global environmental policies. The fourth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-4) focused on innovative solutions for environmental challenges and Sustainable Consumption and Production.

Through the involvement of UCLG and sister networks of the Global Taskforce, the first edition of the **Cities Summit** demonstrated the potential and role of local governments in shifting towards a new model of sustainable consumption and production, through multilevel and integrated urban systems.

The first ever Cities Summit within UNEA provided the opportunity for high level dialogues between local and regional elected officials and national governments representatives on innovative solutions to achieve liveable, inclusive, and sustainable cities – working across sectors and across all levels of government.

The Summit showcased success stories on innovation for sustainable consumption and production in cities, under the focus of localizing SDGs, creating more integrated urban systems, and implementing ecological transition in the context of the New Urban Agenda.

The first UNEA **Cities and Regions Summit Outcome Document** provided concrete recommendations on action for local, regional and national levels contained in the Final Outcome Document. The Outcome Document pays particular attention to the issues of multilevel governance coordination and local sustainable financing of urban systems, and recalls that local governments should be included in nation-to-nation dialogues and that their access to funding streams from national budgets should be facilitated.



**The local implementation of the Sendai Framework**

**UCLG HAS PLACED RESILIENCE AND DISASTER REDUCTION HIGH ON OUR AGENDA, OWING TO THE THREATS PRESENTED BY A RISE IN NATURAL OR MAN-MADE DISASTERS.** These major upheavals are having a huge impact on communities' lives, property and infrastructure. The resilience of cities and regions is at the heart of the Sendai framework localisation strategy.

Local and regional governments are at the forefront of disaster risk reduction, and essential for the **localization of the Sendai Framework**, a key priority for UCLG-Learning and our Network as a whole. UCLG has facilitated sessions on its achievement, and developed resources together with

UN-Habitat and UNDRR. Their commitment and action are key to achieving the targets to be achieved by 2030.

The **Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction** took place in Cancun and provided the first opportunity to **globally review the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**. This revision addressed, among others, the Target 'E' of the Sendai Framework that calls to substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.

Our delegation **called on national governments to ensure the necessary financial, institutional and legislative support, and requested assistance from the international community in order to achieve the imminent goals** set by the Sendai Framework and the other international agendas. Our constituency also took this opportunity to visualize their concrete experiences, exchange and explore partnerships for the further development of local disaster risk reduction initiatives.

Currently, UCLG is finalising a **cooperation agreement with UN-Habitat on Urban Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction**, with the goal of working on urban resilience at the local level, and localizing the Sendai Framework.

The agreement will allow to finalise Learning Module 4 on the localization of the Sendai framework, and develop a pilot project on resilience profiles.

In 2018, UCLG set up a Taskforce for regional disaster prevention and management, to:

- a. provide a platform for local governments to share knowledge and expertise on disaster management;
- b. provide a political and technical platform to draw on lessons learned and offer increasingly coordinated technical support in crisis situations;
- c. improve and increase the availability of local government expertise for disaster victims and municipalities;
- d. promote the role of local governments in international disaster management.





1.5

**OUR INTERMEDIARY CITIES AGENDA**

**1st World Forum on Intermediary Cities and the Soria Commitment**

The UCLG Forum on Intermediary Cities is a consultation and policy mechanism that culminates in an event every two years. It is led by the City of Chefchaouen, and with the support of a core group of pilot intermediary cities, and held its first edition precisely in Chefchaouen during July of 2018, with a follow-up gathering of the Forum in Soria in 2019.

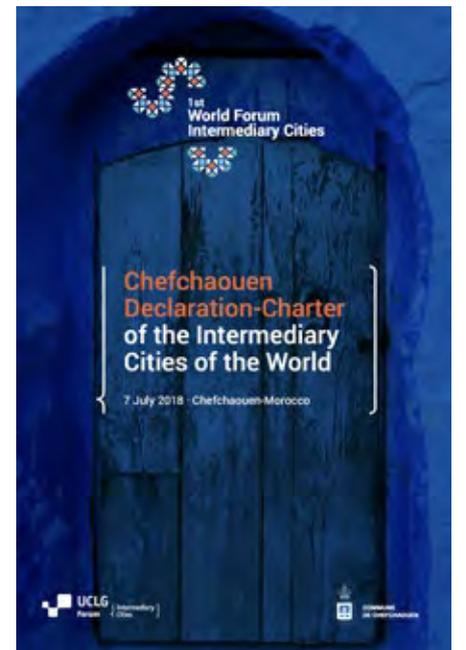
First World Forum on Intermediary Cities culminated with the adoption of the **Chefchaouen Declaration-Charter of the Intermediary Cities of the World**, where the representatives of intermediary cities declared the need to root the global development agendas in the experiences of intermediary cities, as well as to develop systems of multi-level governance and an integrated approach to the development of territories.

The local governments that signed the **Declaration-Charter of the Intermediary Cities of the World**, who committed to hold a second UCLG World Forum of Intermediary Cities, and declared that:

- a. A more concrete multi-level dialogue as a regulatory system to define and implement the global agendas is needed
- b. It is necessary to root the Global Development Agendas in the values and experiences of Intermediary Cities.
- c. There is a need for a better structure and definition of the “living systems” of territories that can be translated into strategies that can be developed, understood and supported at international level.
- d. It is essential to promote integrated models of governance that involve all spheres of government, including metropolitan governments and rural areas.
- e. Acknowledging the role of intermediary cities as an important space of intermediation between the urban and rural is essential to the structuring and territorial organization of the economy,
- f. It is necessary to defend quality of life and access to basic services in their territories in order to reduce inequalities.
- g. The resilience of intermediary cities is strongly linked to their identity, culture and the defence of diversity.

The **Forum on Intermediary Cities** met within the framework of the “Think Europe” Summit in Soria to rethink the challenges that Europe was facing, and the role of intermediary cities in ensuring territorial cohesion. The “Think Europe” summit offered an opportunity to address the future of intermediary cities in Europe and North Africa with a bilateral meeting attended by Ministers, from Spain, and Morocco. A historic meeting between government representatives took place by invitation of local governments. This meeting tackled the development of an agenda and a joint strategy of intermediary cities to take advantage of their potential to transform and cohesion the territory.

The outcome of the “Think Europe” Summit was the **Soria Declaration of Intermediary Cities**, which would be publicly revealed in the conclusions of the meeting. The participants of the second edition of the International Congress of Soria to Think Europe based on the 2030 Commitment, and the members of the UCLG Forum of Intermediary Cities, called to think about the future of the region and the planet collectively, considering the needs and aspirations of the communities and committed to the values and principles reflected in the universal 2030 Agenda.



# 2

## MONITORING

Global policies and the story of development is too often defined by the national perspective and does not consider the needs, experiences and skills of the communities. Our organization works to establish a framework for monitoring and reporting activities on the of the global development agendas through the Global Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralization (GOLD), and is and will continue to

develop its capacity to provide the local version. The V GOLD Report, which will be presented at the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders, is a critical piece for this work. Our ongoing reports on the state of the localization of the SDGs, which have been presented to the High-Level Political Forum, and the two reports of the World Observatory on Subnational Governments' Finance and Investment.

# 5

14 00 UNE PEINTURE PARLÉE  
14 00 TEATRINO PALERMO, CINEMA 2: BORIS CHARMAI 2  
16 00 BEAUBOURG-LA-REINE: GILLES GASTON-DREYFUS,  
SOPHIE LENOIR ET STÉPHANE ROGER  
18 00 PARFUMS POURPRES DU SOLEIL DES PÔLES  
20 30 GRANDE SALLE: STEVEN COHEN

PARLÉE  
REINE: LES KELLERS  
REINE: JULIE NICOLE ET SIR ALICE  
MO: INAUGURATION  
MAGREEN & DRAGET

VE  
23  
14 00 UNE PEINTURE PARLÉE  
16 00 BEAUBOURG-LA-REINE  
19 00 GILLES GASTON  
CONFÉRENCE

LIQUET

30  
14 00 UNE PEINTURE PARLÉE  
16 00 BEAUBOURG-LA-REINE  
19 00 SOPHIE LENOIR ET STÉPHANIE  
CONFÉRENCE-PERFORMANCE  
GUILLAUME DÉSANGES

6  
14 00 UNE PEINTURE PARLÉE  
16 00 BEAUBOURG-LA-REINE  
19 00 MARIE-PIERRE BRÉBAN  
CONFÉRENCE-PERFORMANCE  
20 30 OLIVE MARTIN

## THE REPORT OF OUR CONSTITUENCY TO THE HLPF – “TOWARDS THE LOCALIZATION OF THE SDGs”



**The monitoring and reporting system of the SDGs is currently organized through the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) that are submitted to the sessions of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). In line with our ongoing work on localizing the SDGs, the Global Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralization (GOLD) is supporting this effort by contributing to the HLPF's yearly assessment cycles with reports on implementation of the global agendas from the perspective of local and regional governments.**

For three years in a row, the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, facilitated by UCLG, has presented the report of the local and regional governments' constituency on the Localization of the SDGs to the 2018 High-Level Political Forum. The report is developed by UCLG within the framework of its research agenda

The 3rd edition of the Local and Regional Governments' report to the HLPF, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, marked a new opportunity to survey our constituency and obtain first-hand information from our membership and network. The Survey conducted

in 2019 was especially significant, provided that there was an unprecedented number of responses received (180) from 80 countries, with just over 100 replies coming from local and regional governments and/or their national associations.

Combined with the results of the previous years' questionnaires, as well as the analysis of the Voluntary National Reviews submitted to the HLPF since 2016, this now allows UCLG to have an almost complete map of localization worldwide, signalling to what extent and in which countries local and regional governments have a high or low impact on the decision-making process related to the SDGs, how much they were engaged and included in the VNR process, and how enabling the institutional environment has been for them to participate, mobilize and act.

Alongside the surveys, the Report collected the essential expertise and knowledge of UCLG's and the Global Taskforce's members and partners, globally and locally. Experts and authors were mobilized to provide insight and information on SDG localization in different sectors. As each HLPF meeting focuses on a different set of Goals, the past three years have allowed to build on expertise and knowledge on climate change, housing, sustainable cities, education, health, sanitation, water management, risk management, peace and partnership.

The group of authors and partnering institutions that contributed to the reports has grown to include international organizations (UN-Habitat, UNDP, ILO, PSI, ISWA), local governments' networks (C40, ICLEI, CLGF, AIMF) and many committees, regional sections and communities of practice within UCLG.

## GLOBAL OBSERVATORY ON DECENTRALIZATION AND LOCAL DEMOCRACY (GOLD V)

**UCLG has been working on the fifth report of the Global Observatory on Decentralization and Local Democracy (GOLD V) since the release of GOLD IV in late 2016, with its preparation being launched in 2018. GOLD IV addressed the challenges of metropolises, intermediary cities, small towns and territories and create a common agenda as a building stone for the Habitat III summit, the New Urban Agenda and the SDGs. Today, GOLD V analyses the outcomes of this global process, and assesses the state of implementation of the global agenda and how impactful and participative local and regional governments have been in their own institutional contexts.**

GOLD V, which will be launched at the 2019 UCLG World Congress in Durban, has undertaken a thorough process of revision, edition and peer validation. The authors, the editors and the representatives of UCLG's Regional Sections met in Barcelona in September for a final round of discussion, collaboration and validation, sealing the report's ultimate draft.

The Report builds on seven regional chapters plus a chapter dedicated to Metropolitan Areas. The expert teams that contributed to the report included over ten consultants from all regions of the world. Each chapter explores in depth the territorial and political organization of the countries in the region, the institutional framework in which local and regional governments are able to approach the SDGs and the other global agendas, and the copious number of initiatives, policy actions, decisions, strategizing and planning with which local governments, their associations, their communities and territories are actually and concretely contributing to the localization of the SDGs and the other global goals.

The launch of the GOLD V report will provide an opportunity to showcase the advances of the local and regional

governments' constituency in the process of localization and how important and impactful the daily tasks, policy actions, bottom-up and grassroots initiatives of local actors have been to make implementation a reality at the local level. It also gives UCLG an opportunity to present the outcomes of a three-year-long research and analysis process to mayors, representatives, elected officials, members of our network and the global community, collecting invaluable feedback and first-hand information on the future of this process, as the 2030 deadline looms ever closer and the relentless, united effort of local and regional governments worldwide will be all the more essential to really leave no one and no place behind.

The GOLD V report will also include a thematic reporting effort on one of the core political issues raised by the current global conversation on development: housing, the right to adequate housing and housing policies as developed by or affecting local and regional governments.

The Report on Housing aims at contributing to support the work to be developed in the Community of Practice set up by the signatories of the Municipalist Declaration on the Right to Housing, which is transforming in a worldwide action across the constituency of local and regional governments. The report further contributes to the Wave of Action on Housing with an in-depth report built by regional expert teams for Latin America, Asia-Pacific, Africa and Europe.



## WORLD OBSERVATORY ON SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS' FINANCE AND INVESTMENT



**The World Observatory on Local Government Finance and Investment, jointly set up by the OECD and UCLG, published its 2019 report, which provides detailed information on the structure and organization of local governments, their main responsibilities, and the nature and weight of their expenditures, revenues and debt in 130 countries, and monitors the financial capacities of subnational governments and their role as development partners.**

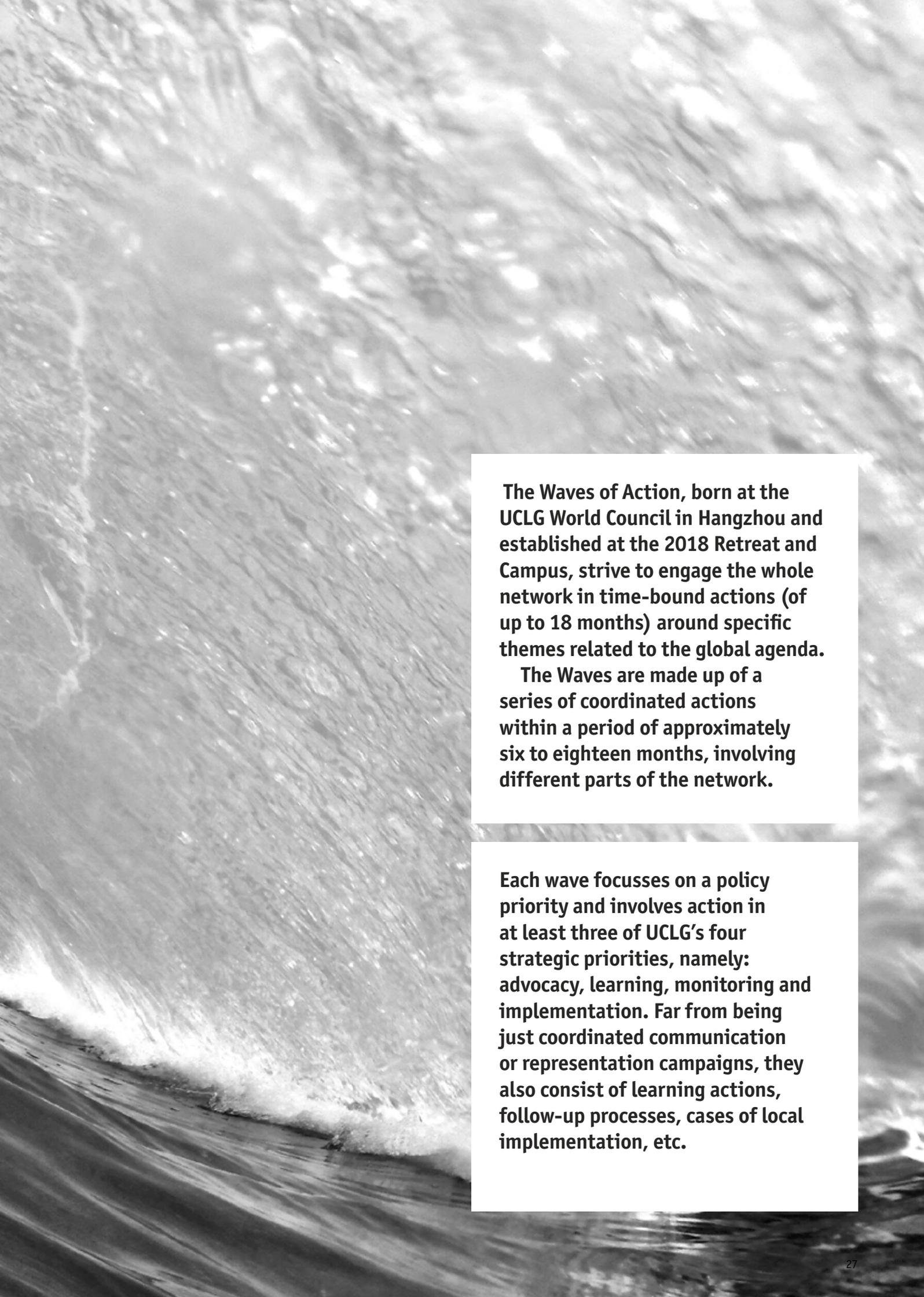
The Report collected 130 Country Fact Sheets countries, an effort that upgrades the already impressive amount of quality information collected by UCLG and the OECD in the previous publication. To do so, regional focal points have been set up to collect the data. In partnership with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United Nations' Capital Development Fund, the French Development Agency and Decentralization and Local Governance (DeLog), it will validate the reliability of the public data on subnational finance.

This process has allowed not just to update the existing database and country profiles, but also to start a systematic analysis on the effectiveness of fiscal decentralization processes worldwide and consolidate collaboration with the OECD and UNCDF.



**3**

**THE WAVES OF ACTION  
2018-2019**



**The Waves of Action, born at the UCLG World Council in Hangzhou and established at the 2018 Retreat and Campus, strive to engage the whole network in time-bound actions (of up to 18 months) around specific themes related to the global agenda.**

**The Waves are made up of a series of coordinated actions within a period of approximately six to eighteen months, involving different parts of the network.**

**Each wave focusses on a policy priority and involves action in at least three of UCLG's four strategic priorities, namely: advocacy, learning, monitoring and implementation. Far from being just coordinated communication or representation campaigns, they also consist of learning actions, follow-up processes, cases of local implementation, etc.**

# 3.1

## THE UCLG WAVES OF ACTION 2018-2019

**THE WAVE OF ACTION ON MIGRATION HAS BEEN, FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS, ENDEAVOURING ON CHANGING THE NEGATIVE PERSPECTIVE OF THIS PHENOMENON,** and demonstrating the positive aspects of migration through joint work among the World Secretariat, Sections and Committees, under the motto **“all migrants, all citizens”**.

Under the motto **“Housing is a right, not a commodity”**, the UCLG **Wave of Action on Housing** defends the right to housing in the framework of the Right to the City, together with a diversity of actors.

The **Wave of Action on Local Finance** has been integral for the creation of the UCLG Strategy on Localizing Finance, placing the topic at the core of the work of the World Organization, and leading to the creation of an international coalition calling for renewed financial mechanisms.

The success of our Waves of Action has proven that the synchronisation of our work produces results, which is why we have taken a step towards Waves of Action that expand and evolve our ongoing work. The next generation of Waves of Action on **Public Space, Localizing the Sendai Framework,** and **Local Democracy** will allow us to work together in issues that are relevant to our membership, and to the world.

### MIGRATION

The main focus of the Wave of Action on Migration throughout was **the drafting of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**. Though UCLG celebrates the commitments undertaken in the adoption of the Global Compact, we cannot help but stress the need of further involvement of local and regional governments in the global migration processes.

UCLG followed-up on the discussions of the Global Compact, and has been advocating for the inclusion of the perspectives of the constituency at the meetings and the discussions which have been taking place among member states of the UN. We strive for Local and Regional Governments to play a larger role in the Global Compact than the one we already have, particularly on the implementation process and throughout the definition of the Compact.

The **Mediterranean City-to-City Migration Project (MC2CM)** aims to contribute to improving the governance of migration at local level in cities in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean. The initiative is led by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), in partnership with UCLG and UN-Habitat. The project involves the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and is co-financed by the EC and the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC). The cities participating are: Amman, Beirut, Lisbon, Lyon, Madrid, Tangier, Tunis, Turin and Vienna. With the support of the European Commission, the second phase of the project, which is set to end in 2021, has started development in the terrain, with even more cities and partners mainly from the Global South.





## HOUSING

The UCLG Wave of Action on Housing has collaborated with **The Shift campaign**, led by the **UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing**, aiming at promoting human rights-based housing strategies throughout all spheres of government, tackling worldwide housing commodification and moving forward the discussions around housing governance have been some of the key talking points of the Wave of Action, and moving forward the relationship between spheres of government was seen as essential in order to implement the Shift.

**Housing was a fundamental topic of the Local and Regional Governments’ delegation at the High-Level Political Forum in 2018.** Mayor of Barcelona Ada Colau presented the Declaration of Cities for Adequate Housing at a special session, prior to the Local and

Regional Governments’ Forum, titled: **“#MakeTheShift: Cities for the Right to Adequate Housing”**, arguing for Housing to be considered as a right and not a commodity in order for cities to fulfil the human rights of their inhabitants.

UCLG members’ common message on the right to housing was reinforced by the adoption of the initiative by the Mayors of Berlin, Montevideo, Madrid, Montreal and Strasbourg, as well as the Vice President of Plaine Commune and New York’s Deputy Mayor on district strategy, who expressed their commitment towards the right to housing and adopted the Declaration as their own. **A total of 40 cities and metropolitan entities have so far adopted the Declaration.**

Housing as a means to ensure the Right to the City has been present at the World Urban Forum. In special session titled **“Housing at the centre, as a vector for socioeconomic inclusion”**, participants from national and local governments shared proposals on how to reposition housing at the centre of urbanization and change the vision on housing from beyond a building-only perspective.



## LOCAL FINANCE

The **Wave of Action on Local Finance** has been integral for the creation of the UCLG Strategy on Localizing Finance, placing the topic at the core of the work of the World Organization, and leading to the creation of an international coalition calling for renewed financial mechanisms.

The **Strategy on Local Finance** aims to **build a new narrative** on localizing finance for sustainable urbanization, which needs to elaborate on: how to increase local financial engineering capacities; mobilizing finance towards local levels of government (where it is most needed); and accessing long-time sustainable investments, as well as ensuring that all parts of the World Organization express common messages to advance the agenda on localizing financing for sustainable urbanization. **The key components of the strategy are:**

- a. Mapping the mechanisms and the initiatives available within the UCLG network and setting up instruments to support fiscal decentralization. This mapping will serve as a base for defining priorities for action.
- b. Creating and co-leading a global multi-stakeholder reference platform as an advocacy space for the implementation of the Global Partnership on Localizing Financing through dialogue and cooperation with key players of the local financing value chain
- c. Stimulating institutional momentum and debate at international key moments, especially during the Financing for Development Forum, the High-Level Political Forums on SDGs, and COPs to share progress and key transformative propositions on Localizing Financing, aiming to gain more support and partners for systemic change.

In partnership with **UNCDF** and **in close collaboration with FMDV**, a Municipal Investment Fund has been set up to help local governments access finance, and a Community of Practice was set up and over 20 cities are joining the Community of Practice in this topic.



### The next generation of Waves of Action

The new generation of the Waves of Action were introduced at our UCLG Retreat in 2019. The following topics were identified as able to conjure political leadership through policy and relevant work to our organization, which will allow us to feed on it and give us the opportunity to involve more partners and stakeholders in our work.

**Public Space: Tool for Equality:** encompassing gender and accessibility to make public space a means to inclusion

**Reinventing Local Democracy:** building on the need to regain trust of the citizens and show the potential of transparent and solid institutions in transformation of society.

**Localizing the Sendai Framework:** the ecological transition will need to pay attention not only to mitigating climate change but also to developing sustainable and resilient societies. The Sendai framework can be instrumental for local and regional governments if understood from a local and territorial perspective.





### All-UCLG Gender Equality Strategy

To realize the commitment toward gender equality, as stated in article 3 of the UCLG Constitution, the UCLG leadership launched, in 2018, the process for the development of an **All-UCLG Gender Equality Strategy**.

The draft strategy was presented to the World Council in Madrid in November 2018 and a commented version, following consultations and working sessions at the UCLG Retreat in February 2019, was shared with the Executive Bureau held in Montevideo in April 2019. Based on this draft strategy currently being discussed there is a commitment to develop a concrete work plan that will ensure its implementation and further development.

This document is the draft structure of an action plan. It is to be validated and further developed with the memberships.

On the basis of the All-UCLG Gender Strategy, the Action Plan is built around two pillars:

- the political pillar aiming at raising the participation of women in governing and decision-making bodies at the local level;
- the institutional pillar aiming at developing mainstreaming and promoting gender equality activities within the UCLG network across its different areas. It shall cover short, medium- and long-term strategies.

## 3.2

## GENDER EQUALITY

**THE MUNICIPAL MOVEMENT HAS PUSHED DURING THIS MANDATE FOR EQUALITY**, caring for those that need it most and placing gender equality at the heart of our policies, since the face of many of the challenges that we need to address is feminine.

To realize this commitment UCLG has pushed for gender equality through campaigns such as **#BeCounted**, to raise awareness about the lack of data and representation of women in local councils, and has taken the commitment to gender equality to heart, by launching the development of an All-UCLG Gender Equality Strategy.



#UCLGmee

# LOCAL ACTION and

SAFER, RESILIENT  
AND SUSTAINABLE  
CITIES, capable  
of facing crises

OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR ALL,  
Culture  
and City 30



UCLGm





# 4

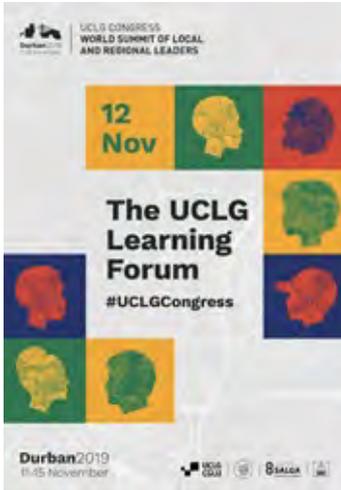
## LEARNING

Exchanging experiences and learning is at the bases of any transformation and is part of the DNA of the international municipal movement. It is through the development of a learning system that builds on all work areas that the movement can disseminate its joint messages and that cohesion can be achieved.

UCLG's strategic mandate is to support the learning of its members by promoting decentralized co-operation

and international co-operation between local governments and their associations, as well as to promote peer to peer ties as a means for mutual learning. Our Learning Strategy continues to be inspired and built on Action Learning, dialoguing with the current global agendas and the traditional decentralized cooperation. It has further also ensured strong links with UCLG's membership base and in particular cities' needs and problems.

## LEARNING FORUM



The **UCLG Learning Forum** is conceived as an ongoing process in the life of the organization which will crystallize as a space for dialogue and co-creation within our next World Summit. This platform will define methodologies and mechanisms that will support shaping the visions of the local and regional leaders, supporting them in their role as the sentinels of communities' hopes, dreams and expectations.

The content of the Forum is structured around the two key lines of action that have been implemented over the past three years: localizing the global agendas and peer-to-peer learning. A new line of work is envisaged to be explored: Local Labs, which will enable a more in-deep cooperation with active cities within the network.

The Learning Forum should also consolidate processes and methodologies that will contribute to the strategic priorities of our global network, nurturing a learning culture that enhances the synchronization and efficiency of our actions.

The expected outcomes of this gathering are an assessment of the state of learning within the network that can lead to the identification of key elements for the UCLG Learning Strategy 2019-2021. Furthermore, concrete recommendations to boost the reach of UCLG policies through learning and concrete recommendations on innovative learning methodologies and mechanisms are envisaged objectives.

## ACTION LEARNING

The challenges faced by city planners and managers in the current context are immense. UCLG is committed to the localization of the SDGs to allow local and regional governments to harness local opportunities, priorities, and ideas.

Local governments have a crucial role to play in this process of localizing the Global Agendas. As policymakers, catalysts for change and key actors in development, cities have a unique capacity to implement and monitor sustainable development, prosperity and well-being at the local level.

In the vein of promoting peer-to-peer learning among municipalities, UCLG has held peer-learning events throughout these years, with a particular focus on migration, and urban resilience and disaster-risk reduction.



## ENHANCING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS' CAPACITIES TO ACHIEVE THE SDGS WITH OUR LEARNING TOOLKIT

A series of Learning Modules for the localization of the SDGs have been developed and published throughout the past years, with the latest one being Module 3 on "Reporting on national and local reviews", and a planned fourth module on urban resilience, disaster risk reduction and the localization of the Sendai Framework.

**A Learning Toolkit for the localization of the SDGs, geared at building the capacities of local and regional governments to achieve the 2030 Agenda, have been developed** and are being used to train participants in our Learning activities. Currently, three modules for the localization of the global goals have been produced, and UCLG is in talks to develop a fourth module.

**Training Module 1** of the toolkit was an introductory module aiming to raise awareness on key issues around the localisation of the SDGs, and was already released in 2017.

**Training Module 2** aims to find out how the SDGs and the principles behind Agenda 2030 contribute to urban planning, and how urban planning contributes to achieving the SDGs.

**Training Module 3, which concentrates on the role of local government associations in reporting to Voluntary National Reviews**, launched during 2019.

**The Training of Trainers sessions on localizing the SDGs**, based around the **Learning Modules**, have taken place throughout these last three years, in collaboration with UCLG sections and partners. The training modules -including for the first-time module 3- have further been used to train participants.

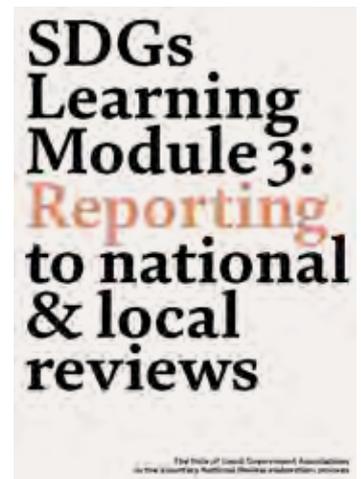
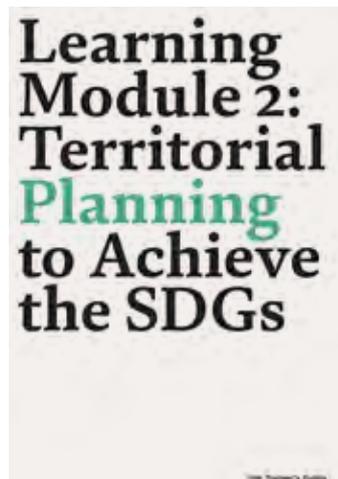
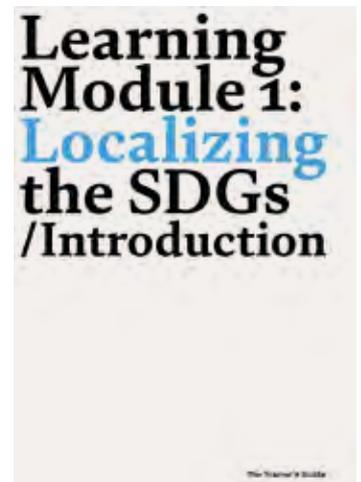
UCLG developed the tool "**The Sustainable Development Goals - SDGs in the municipal map**", in partnership with the UNESCO Chair of Intermediary Cities and the UCLG Forum on Intermediary Cities. Based on the experience of Chefchaouen, this tool allows different agendas and plans to be linked to the territory, while making

evident local priorities and strategies.

Also, in partnership with the UNESCO Chair of Intermediary Cities, UCLG has developed the tool "**Base Plan: An inclusive planning tool for intermediary cities**". It allows to strategically conceptualize the growth and evolution of a city or region, considering the different realities and priorities of the urban spaces, in favour of planned and equitable growth.

**The Localization of the Sendai Framework** has been a key strategic priority in Learning, with the team facilitating a session on its achievement, environment and climate change at the FLACMA Congress led by the Local Governments' Association of Costa Rica, and developing a video, together with UN-Habitat and UN-DRR on localizing the Sendai Framework that was launched during the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2019 in Geneva. UCLG Learning has also organized a side-event on the localization of the Sendai Framework.

Learning has endeavoured to enhance synergies with the learning teams from all the network through a staff exchange with UCLG-ASPAC to prepare the Terms of Reference and the Resilience Strategy.



 **UCLGmeets**

# BUREAU EJECUTIVO

4-6 de Abril de 2019

MONTEVIDEO



Action

#LocalAction

# 5

## STRENGTHENING THE NETWORK

Over the duration of the Presidency UCLG has, as an organization, endeavoured to shift the approach of our statutory meetings incorporating policymaking into the gatherings as a mean to strengthen and align the priorities of the organization.



## JOINT POLICYMAKING AT OUR STATUTORY MEETINGS

**OUR STATUTORY GATHERINGS (WORLD COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE BUREAU) HAVE GROWN INTO TRUE POLICYMAKING EVENTS**, with special emphasis placed upon them to further dialogues among representatives of national governments and local and regional elected officials, and the development of the policymaking mechanisms within UCLG.

A testament to this was the development of our **policy councils**, our main policy and consultation mechanism, which was announced at our **Executive Bureau** in Madrid, and further developed during the **World Council** in Hangzhou. The **Waves of Action** were also introduced during our World Council in Hangzhou, and the themes of said Waves were further developed at our Retreat in Barcelona.

The policybuilding aspect of our statutory meetings was further enhanced due to the dialogues between national representatives and local and regional leaders at our **Resilient Cities Dialogues**, held within the framework of UNACLA in our **Executive Bureau** in Strasbourg, as well as the dialogues on peacebuilding that took place within the framework of our **World Council** in Madrid, which coincided with the **World Forum on Urban Violence**, and

provided an opportunity to boost the peace agenda of UCLG and as well as the links between peacebuilding and local democracy.

The UCLG Statutory meetings has also evolved over these years into gatherings that enhance the cohesion among other parts of the Network. An example of this can be found in our latest **Executive Bureau** in Montevideo, that saw other organization members—**Metropolis**, **UCCI**, and **Mercociudades**—convene their statutory meetings, as well as the meetings of the **Working Group on Territorial Prevention and Management of Crises**.



5.1

THE UCLG RETREAT AND CAMPUS

WITH THE GOAL OF SHAPING THE PRIORITIES OF THE CONSTITUENCY AND CREATING AND EXPANDING SYNERGIES AMONG THE DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE NETWORK, the UCLG Retreat and Campus has grown into an important moment to enhance dialogue and shape the strategy of the organization, which explains how the gathering has grown into becoming an event that gathered **over 200 people** in our last Retreat in 2019.

The UCLG Retreat has further offered an opportunity to enhance the strategy and provide a space for our joint constituency. The **Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments** has consistently held its annual meetings within the framework of our Retreat, co-creating their strategy for the year, in particular for the representation of our constituency before the United Nations at the High-Level Political Forum and the World Urban Forum, and planting the seed for joint policy development for the joint constituency of local and regional governments.

Our Retreats have also evolved into gatherings that have, more and more, evolved the policymaking of the World Organization. The Waves of Action have been discussed -and adopted- during our Retreats, as have been the priorities of our Policy and Consultation mechanisms. The UCLG Retreats have also proven to be integral to enhance the strategies of our World Organization regarding **Gender Equality and Municipal Finance**.

Strengthening the synergies within our Network has been a capital effort of our Retreat, with our Regional Sections envisioning policy topics on which they had previously worked to strengthen our strategy globally.



The annual iterations of our Retreats have been thematically linked to our work for the year. In that sense, our **2017 Retreat** had a clear focus on developing UCLG’s strategic priorities, as the major global **development agendas were moving into the implementation and monitoring phases**.

The Retreat further addressed the **link among the work on learning and the overall work plan of the organization, the contribution of UCLG Observatories to the monitoring and follow-up of the global agendas, and synergies and common actions on communication and awareness-raising campaigns**.

**Strengthening partnerships** was one of the main goals of our **2018 Retreat**, as well as a constant for UCLG throughout the year. As such, making the African “Know Your City” initiative global through enhanced partnerships between UCLG and Slum Dwellers International and Cities Alliance was one of the main outcomes of the discussions. Enhancing collaboration with Public Services International and World Enabled was yet another of the commitments undertaken during the Retreat. **The Right to the City, Resilience, Multilevel Governance and Opportunities for All were confirmed as priority policies for the constituency**, with the right to housing also being a key issue of the discussion regarding the Right to the City and how to ensure the rights of citizens.

The **World Summit of Local and Regional Governments, our 2019 Congress**, was the common thread running throughout our **2019 Retreat**. Representatives of Durban and SALGA presented the perspective of the hosts and their vision on the legacy of the Congress.

The **UBUNTU Advisory Board** spread its wings at the Retreat with two policy debate sessions. The advisors provided inspiring food for thought to the members of the Presidency on global trends and also on a candid exchange on the future of the municipal movement and the role that an organization such as UCLG should play.



# 5.2

## EXECUTIVE BUREAU

### Strengthening UCLG’s Policymaking in the framework of the 1st Forum on Urban Violence

The **UCLG Executive Bureau** of 2017 took place in Madrid back-to-back with the **World Forum on Urban Violence and Education for Coexistence and Peace**. The forum provided a meeting point for local leaders, organizations and international networks, academic figures, NGOs and civil society actors, aiming to open up a **joint process of discussion, reflection and the construction of solutions that promote urban environments capable of eliminating expressions of violence**.

Following a rich discussion among members, the UCLG Executive Bureau recommended a set of priorities for UCLG for the period 2016-2022 to be adopted by the World Council. **The strategic priorities aim to enable the network to implement the global goals through the application of the Bogotá Commitment, that is, to localize the 2030 Agenda and implement the Habitat III Agenda.**

The Executive Bureau further agreed to **establish the Waves of Action**. These initiatives aim to visualize the multiplying effect of synchronizing thousands of local and regional actions at global level and amplify the work of our members and partners in the implementation of the global agendas. **The right to housing, local finance** and migration were some of the themes selected for the next Waves of Action

The Executive Bureau also approved the **establishment of the Policy Councils**. These consultations mechanisms will drive UCLG’s 2016-2022 strategic priorities and work programme to develop policy recommendations,



### National-Local Dialogues take the stage at the European Parliament

The city of Strasbourg hosted the first session of the **UCLG Executive Bureau in the year 2018**. Held in the European Parliament, it gathered over 300 local and regional delegates including over 70 political representatives, as well as more than 50 national government officials. International organizations such as UN-Habitat, the International Association of Public Transport and the Open Government Partnership, as well as representatives from the Council of Europe and CLGF were also present.

In line with our 2016-2022 Strategic Priorities, and building on our work towards enhancing and establishing partnerships –particularly with like-minded stakeholders- expressed during the Retreat, UCLG Signed a Global Strategic Partnership with the **International Association of Public Transport (UITP)**, to advance in the

enhance policy ownership and renew the involvement of a broader group of political leaders in the active life of the organization, beyond the Presidency.

Members further discussed the **EU-UCLG Strategic Partnership** and the action proposal submitted for the next phase 2018-2020.



development of a mobility agenda.

**A new era of UCLG-ICLEI relations was also announced**, which culminated in both the signature of a MoU and institutional presence from UCLG in the ICLEI Congress in Montréal on 20-22 June.

The meetings of the governing bodies of UCLG also included a **dialogue between national and local governments**, in the framework of the **United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities** and the GTF, which aimed to pave the way towards the High-Level Political Forum, which would for the first time hold a Local and Regional Governments' Forum.

Moving forward with the new Strategy on Localizing Finance, it was agreed to reintegrate the **Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV)** and build on its experience, and to count on the support of UNCDF, which would launch a local fund with UCLG. The Concrete proposals for the integration of FMDV within UCLG would further be discussed in the World Council in Madrid.



### Integrating culture into the policymaking of the World Organization

The city of Buenos Aires hosted the 3rd Culture Summit **as well as the dialogues of the UCLG Policy Councils**, which are part of the UCLG Executive Bureau, whereas the city of Montevideo hosted the Statutory meetings.

For the first time, **the UCLG Executive Bureau held its meetings through a roundtable format**, allowing to present the priorities and the strategies on the members on issues such as the **local governments' role in the global agendas towards the Congress**, and on the **emerging and existing priorities of the membership**.

From a statutory perspective, it is worth highlighting that members of the Committee on Statutory Affairs agreed on the electoral framework in view of the renewal of UCLG's governing bodies at the Congress. Two documents were presented to complement the existing documents: the **Conduct of elections**, which recalls the main rules to be followed in the electoral process and the procedures of the elections themselves during the Congress; and the UCLG Code of conduct, which aims at reflecting the values that have always guided the practices of the organization, fostering shared values and guaranteeing high ethical standards based on accountability, fairness and transparency.

The updated **All-UCLG gender equality strategy** was presented to members on this occasion.



5.3

WORLD COUNCIL

Strengthening the priorities of the World Organization at the 2017 World Council in Hangzhou

The World Council is the principal policymaking body of the World Organization. It decides the World Organization’s policies and ensures that general policies adopted by the General Assembly are implemented.

The World Council in Hangzhou ratified the strategic priorities for the 2018-2022 period, which aim to enhance UCLG’s capacity to continue facilitating the representation of local and regional governments, consolidate the learning network and ensure that the perspective and experience of local and regional governments is included in the monitoring of the implementation of the global development agendas.

In line with strengthening said priorities and building upon the strategy of implementing partnerships, UCLG submitted an action proposal for

the next phase of the implementation of the Strategic Partnership with the European Union, which seeks to adapt to the new global context by localizing the global agenda. With the localization of the SDGs being such a key issue to our constituency, a session entitled “UCLG localizing the SDGs” provided members with updates on the localization process, and an introduction to the Local4Action Hub.

The World Council further ratified the renewed structure of the consultation mechanisms and the strategic priorities laid out during the Executive Bureau in Madrid, and further agreed to establish the Waves of Action, with important decisions taking place in regard to housing and in shaping the global narrative on the issue of migration.





### Building cities as spaces free of violence, key at our 2018 World Council in Madrid

The UCLG World Council met in Madrid, by invitation of Mayor Manuela Carmena, within the framework of the **Second World Forum on Urban Violence and Education for Coexistence and Peace**, a meeting that aims to gather local leaders, international organisations, Academia, and NGOs and civil society to debate, reflect and build solutions to develop urban environments that eliminate violence. The World Council meetings also counted on the presence from the **European Commission**, sister organizations such as Cities Alliance, and United Nations agencies as well as many other partners of the organization.

Peacebuilding, and developing societies that were free of violence was at the core of the discussions that took place in Madrid, which highlighted the efforts of our members to consolidate peace throughout the world and sending a message that a world free of violence is possible, but that we need to consider all of the people involved to make it happen.



# 6

**OUR POLICY PRIORITIES,  
DRIVEN BY THE POLICY  
COUNCILS**



**THE POLICY COUNCILS ARE THE CONSULTATION MECHANISMS THAT DRIVE FORWARD UCLG'S 2016-2022 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES.** Adopted during the Executive Bureau in Madrid in 2017, their work is to develop policy recommendations, enhance policy ownership and renew the involvement of a broader group of political leaders. The Policy Councils all focus on strategic topics, which reflect both the key issues in the global agendas and the priority axes contained in the Bogotá Commitment and are, as follows: **Right to the City and Inclusive Territories; Opportunities for All, Culture and City Diplomacy: Keys to sustainable development and peace; Territorial, Multilevel Governance and Sustainable Financing; and Safer, Resilient and Sustainable Cities, Capable of Facing Crises.**

2018 saw the first meetings of the UCLG Policy Councils, within the framework of the UCLG Executive Bureau in Strasbourg. The Policy Councils held dialogues among local governments' officials and ministers, with the aim of increasing political commitment on the challenges that local and regional spheres of government face. These dialogues represented a breakthrough towards a better understanding between spheres of government, and act as precursor of the conversations that took place within the High-Level Political Forum.

In Madrid, in the framework of the UCLG World Council and the Forum on Urban Violence and Education for Coexistence and Peace, the UCLG Policy Councils held policy dialogues integrating the concept of peace within their work, and with the aim of leading peacebuilding initiatives through the work of the organization.

Within the framework of the 2019 UCLG Executive Bureau in Montevideo and the UCLG Culture Summit, political dialogues under the auspices of the Policy Councils were held in Buenos Aires, with the aim of integrating the culture dimension in the political dialogues of local and regional governments' officials and ministers, as well as of increasing political commitment on the challenges that local and regional spheres of government face.

The UCLG Policy Councils are composed of up to 15 representatives with a political mandate, with various co-chairs. For the 2017–2019 period they have been, as follows:

**a. Right to the City and Inclusive Territories.** Co-chaired by **Ada Colau**, Mayor of Barcelona and Co-President of UCLG, and **Patrick Braouezec**, President of the Plaine Commune Metropolitan area, and Co-President of the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights.

**b. Opportunities for All, Culture and City Diplomacy: Keys to Sustainable Development and Peace.** Co-chaired by **Jan van Zanen**, Mayor of Utrecht, and President of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities; **Eduardo Vázquez**, Secretary of Culture of Mexico City, and Co-Chair of the UCLG Committee on Culture; and **Juan Mari Aburto**, Mayor of Bilbao and Vice-President of the UCLG Committee on Culture.

**c. Territorial, Multilevel Governance and Sustainable Financing.** Co-chaired by **Mercè Conesa Pagés**, President of the Barcelona Provincial Council; and **Mónica Fein**, Mayor of Rosario, and Vice-President of UCLG for Latin America.

**d. Safer, Resilient and Sustainable Cities, Capable of Facing Crises.** Co-chaired by **Fatimetou Mint Abdel Malick**, President of the Nouakchott Regional Council and Vice-President of REFELA for the Northern Region; and **Roland Ries**, Mayor of Strasbourg, President of Cités Unies France, Co-President of UCLG ad Co-Chair of the UCLG Mobility Community of Practice.

a.

**Policy Council:**  
Right to the City and Inclusive Territories

**POLICY COUNCILLORS**

- Ada Colau**, Mayor of Barcelona, Co-President of UCLG
- Patrick Braouezec**, President of Plaine Commune Metropolitan Area, Co-President of UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights
- Daniela Restrepo**, Mayor of Medellín, President of Medellín, Member of Medellín, President of Medellín, American Network of Cities against Racism
- David Heston**, Mayor of Bristol, President of UCLG
- Abdoulaye Thiello**, Mayor of Niakhar
- Arup Jaya Teo**, Co-Chair of the UCLG Committee on Inclusion, Participation, Democracy and Human Rights

c.

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

**POLICY COUNCILLORS**

- Mercè Conesa Pagés**, President of Barcelona Provincial Council
- Mónica Fein**, Mayor of Rosario, Vice-President of UCLG for Latin America
- Juliana Borja**, President of the Association of Administrative Regions in Colombia (ARCA)
- Francisco Domínguez**, President of UCLG, President of UCLG
- Fatimetou Mint Abdel Malick**, President of the Nouakchott Regional Council and Vice-President of REFELA for the Northern Region
- Patrick Berry**, Mayor of Bristol, Co-Chair of the UCLG Mobility Community of Practice
- Rosa Christiana Douane**, Mayor of Strasbourg, Vice-President of UCLG for Africa
- Olga Oyar**, Mayor of Rajahmundry
- Roberto Salazar**, Mayor of Ciudad Juárez, Co-Chair of the UCLG Committee on Urban Development

b.

**Policy Council:**  
Opportunities for All, Culture and City Diplomacy: Keys to Sustainable Development and Peace

**POLICY COUNCILLORS**

- Jan van Zanen**, Mayor of Utrecht, President of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNO)
- Eduardo Vázquez**, Secretary of Culture of Mexico City, Co-Chair of the UCLG Committee on Culture
- Juan Mari Aburto**, Mayor of Bilbao, Vice-President of the UCLG Committee on Culture
- Salim Algabari**, Mayor of Beirut, Co-President of UCLG
- Cláudia Duarte**, Mayor of Coimbra, Vice-President of UCLG
- Wen Chang**, Governor of Guangdong, Vice-President of UCLG
- Rebecca Carreras**, Mayor of Madrid, Vice-President of UCLG
- Celia Martínez**, Mayor of Valencia, Vice-President of UCLG for Europe
- Ayem Wilson**, Mayor of Bogotá, Vice-President of UCLG
- Christine Dirks**, Mayor of Cologne, Vice-President of UCLG

d.

**Policy Council:**  
Safer, Resilient and Sustainable Cities, Capable of Facing Crises

**POLICY COUNCILLORS**

- Fatimetou Mint Abdel Malick**, President of the Nouakchott Regional Council and Vice-President of REFELA for the Northern Region
- Roland Ries**, Mayor of Strasbourg, President of Cités Unies France, Vice-President of UCLG for Europe
- Salim Algabari**, Mayor of Beirut, Vice-President of UCLG for Latin America
- Roberto Salazar**, Mayor of Ciudad Juárez, Co-Chair of the UCLG Committee on Urban Development
- Zarela González**, Mayor of Valencia, Vice-President of UCLG
- Wen Chang**, Governor of Guangdong, Vice-President of UCLG
- Maria Celia Ballester**, Mayor of Valencia, Vice-President of UCLG
- Alvaro Domínguez**, Mayor of Madrid, Vice-President of UCLG
- Francisco Domínguez**, President of UCLG, President of UCLG



### Right to the City and Inclusive Territories

The Policy Council on the Right to the City which met in Strasbourg fundamentally addressed the issue of housing in cities, and saw the presentation of the **Barcelona Manifesto on Housing** -which would go on to become the Cities for Housing Declaration, and further presented during the High-Level Political Forum- for discussion, as a key element which represented the work of both UCLG and its members, intrinsically linked to SDG 11.

The Policy Council on the Right to the City also focused during 2018 on our efforts to change the narrative surrounding migration, presenting it as a phenomenon that provides opportunities rather than challenges. **Mayors from the Mediterranean region committed during the World Council in Madrid to strengthen city-to-city cooperation and mutual knowledge**, and encouraged local governments to participate on the mayoral forum that took place in December prior to the final

conference that would adopt the Global Compact on Migration.

The dialogue hosted by the Policy Council on the Right to the City, **“Implementing cultural rights in the city”** highlighted how culture is integral to the Right to the City, and signalled that aspects of urban life such as cultural right or accessibility have yet to be adopted in many cities, and addressed the obstacles that cities face in regards to adopted and emerging rights, as well as those obstacles that make it difficult for cities to offer for the full realisation of their citizens to the right to culture.

The debate also addressed the need to guarantee the necessary resources for local and regional governments to implement cultural rights, as well as to integrate a gender perspective in cultural policy.



### Safer, Resilient and Sustainable Cities, Capable of Facing Crises

The dialogue hosted by our Policy Council on Safer, Resilient and Sustainable Cities in **Strasbourg** in 2018 was developed in the framework of the **Talanoa Dialogues**, a platform that aims at framing the conversations around climate change, and increase action among all stakeholders in order to reach the Paris Climate Goals. The dialogue approached designing policies to improve sustainability and resilience which effectively means designing cities prepared for the future.

Participants of the dialogue started by framing the concept of resilience and its relationship to all sectors of city planning, and further emphasized the need to develop resilience plan with a multidisciplinary approach that consider all actors rather than developing sectoral plans.

Under the title **“Local governments leading the ecological transition”**, the UCLG Policy Council on resilience held a debate in Madrid that addressed **the role of local and regional government**

**on the ecological transition**, moving beyond climate mitigation and working to develop awareness-raising policies for citizens on climate.

The UCLG Policy Council further agreed to submit for discussion the **Universal Declaration of Humankind Rights**, which will act as a complementary text establishing certain rights and duties which are not merely individual, but collective. The Declaration proposes the creation of interdependence between living species, to ensure the right to exist and the right of humanity to live in a healthy and ecologically sustainable environment.

The session hosted by the **Policy Council on Safer, Resilient and Sustainable Cities** during the UCLG Culture Summit in Buenos Aires, **“Experimenting with Creativity in Public Space”**, aimed to identify what solutions have been applied around cultural issues in public spaces.

The session was geared towards identifying how to integrate culture in the reconstruction and resilience of neighbourhoods and cities, as well as how to circumvent social barriers that prevent or hinder access to culture.



Policy Council:

**Opportunities for All, Culture and City Diplomacy: Keys to Sustainable Development and Peace**

### Opportunities for All, Culture and City Diplomacy

The Policy Council of Opportunities for All, Culture and City Diplomacy focused on culture as an instigator for sustainability and social inclusion during its meeting in Strasbourg in 2018, and emphasized the importance of city diplomacy to achieve peace and solidarity.

The relationship between local democracy and peacebuilding was particularly present during the meeting of the Policy Council during the 2018 World Council in Madrid. The Policy Council further announced that the opportunity offered by this coincidence would allow for developing a UCLG policy on peace-making which could eventually serve as a reference for different parts of the network in regards to co-developing peace.

The Policy debate urged participants to think about how local governments can grow their role as peacebuilders and what they can do at regional level, to ensure linkages between the

upcoming policies of peace of the World Organization as well as the UCLG Peace Prize, and to develop **an interactive bank of local practices**.

The policy council on Opportunities for All, Culture and City Diplomacy hosted a dialogue focused on **“Generational Dialogue and Creativity: Strategies for the Youth”**, with the aim of highlighting the positive aspects of intergenerational dialogues and the ways in which the youth could be included in the decision-making tables.

The debate also tackled the role of local governments in the inclusion of young people and the role of culture as a tool for citizenship, essential to ensure the inclusion of actors who feel abandoned, as well as an instrument to achieve social cohesion and peaceful societies.



Policy Council:

**Territorial, Multilevel Governance and Sustainable Financing**

### Territorial Multilevel Governance and Sustainable Financing

The UCLG Policy Council on Territorial Multilevel Governance and Sustainable Financing which took place during the Executive Bureau Strasbourg reminded of the necessity to align the priorities of all spheres of government with the SDGs and that multilevel governance and working towards developing a new model of governance is essential to achieve the global agendas.

The importance of dealing with tensions between spheres of government and the local and national level were touched upon, with representatives from supramunicipal entities sharing experiences and expectations moving forward. Enhancing relations between spheres of government is a necessity, participants argued, if we are to transition from the current model of governance into one based on solidarity and not competences.

The UCLG Policy Council on Territorial Multilevel Governance further held a dialogue in the World Council in which **agreed on the importance of a full**

**territorial approach with the involvement of all spheres of government to achieve the SDGs**, as well as to make efforts to enhance the involvement of local government associations in the follow up of the SDGs, **and in developing a structural national dialogue on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda**.

The policy council on Opportunities for All, Culture and City Diplomacy hosted a dialogue focused on **“Generational Dialogue and Creativity: Strategies for the Youth”**, with the aim of highlighting the positive aspects of intergenerational dialogues and the ways in which the youth could be included in the decision-making tables.

  
**Durban2019**  
11-15 November

**UCLG CONGR  
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**Durban2019**  
11-15 November



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# 7

## OUR CONGRESS YEAR

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GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION



# THE ROAD TO THE UCLG WORLD SUMMIT OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEADERS

The 6th World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders and UCLG World Congress took place in Durban, South Africa, from 11 to 15 November 2019. The World Congress, organized every three years, gathers more than 3,000 elected officials and representatives of local and regional governments from across the world. It is a strong moment for UCLG as a membership-based organization, but also a global event that gathers key international players in development and policy making.

The 2019 World Summit will not only serve as a meeting point for innovative dialogue on the global agendas from the LRG perspective, but for a renewed strategy for the municipal movement as a whole, and a renewed leadership of the World Organization.

The UCLG World Congress is based around four main tracks - **Assembly, Town Hall, Local4Action, and Statutory**- designed to foster the dialogues that guide the debates and exchange processes that will take place throughout the Summit, and produce specific outcomes. Our core values of geographical and gender balance have been taken into consideration wherever possible to ensure maximum representation in these four tracks.

The Congress has endeavoured to be **more inclusive**, setting its eyes on offering a space for all stakeholders to present their views on key priorities for the communities of the future, and present policy papers which inspire the outcome document of the Congress.



# THEMES AND SUB-THEMES

Local democracy, which has been making its way back to the core of the organization, together with gender equality, intergenerational dialogues, and peacebuilding, will be some of the strategic topics to address at the Congress, all of which have been a key part of the World Organization, and will be co-developed further during the Summit.

In order to guarantee the contribution of the Summit deliberations to the World Organization’s policy and strategy, the key axes of the Congress include the UCLG Policy areas, which correspond to the policy priorities led by our policy councils:

- Right to the City: Housing; Accessibility; Migration; New Rights (such as digital rights); Public Space; Inclusiveness and Accessibility
- Opportunities for all: Culture; Promotion of Peace; Gender Equality; and Intergenerational Dialogues.
- Multilevel Governance: Redefining the Governance Frameworks; Metropolitan Regions.
- Ecological Transition: Resilience; Climate Action, new patterns of consumption and production, food security.

The Summit’s mottos integrate a flavour of the different policy areas in leaving no one behind and the responsibility of local and regional governments have to co-create with the communities:

- Local action for the people, by the people
- Cities are Listening
- Share | Listen | Review



## A TEAM TO MAKE IT ALL HAPPEN

The World Congress needs to be seen as an opportunity for the consolidation and renewal of our strategy, through the integration of our consultation mechanisms and our sections in the Assembly and the Town Hall, and for it to succeed, it needs to be up to par in terms of content, it needs to provide an attractive programme that gathers the sensibilities of the Network and our partners, and keeps in mind the legacy of the Summit for Durban. It needs to showcase that the UCLG ecosystem is, what it is working on, and express its full diversity.

To this end, an inter-disciplinary operational team has been set up in the World Secretariat: composed of nine staffers, its goal is to work on the day-to-day operations of the Congress, focusing primarily on the programme, the logistical arrangement and the liaison with the hosts.

Dedicated teams have also been set up for each of the tracks: Statutory, Town Hall, Assembly and Local4Action, to establish relations with members, partners, and speakers.

From the **Communication** perspective, UCLG has endeavoured to develop communication campuses and training exchange with specialists from the network, as well as to establish regular calls with the communication focal points of the Network to ensure a common message and a strengthened voice towards the Congress.

## THE TRACKS THAT LEAD US TO CO-CREATION

**The Town Hall** will be the space for dialogue and interaction between different internationally organized communities and the political leadership of the local and regional governments constituency to jointly define our global policies. We cannot achieve these goals on our own, and thus we need to build upon, strengthen and enhance partnerships moving forward. The Town Hall will not only be a space for partners and stakeholders to join us, but to collaborate in what we are building. The Town Hall will have 4 to 6 sessions with different themes.

In each session, the organized constituencies will present a document of political recommendations on a specific topic, previously drafted through a consultation process, to discuss with politicians. In an open debate, the document will be reacted by UCLG members and debated with the constituencies. After deliberations a pooling will be defined as a result of the session, which will be presented to the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments.

- Inclusive and Accessible Cities
- Right to the City
- Gender Equality
- Addressing Informalities
- Partnership for Urban Sustainable Development

The **Assembly** will be a non-stop track throughout the World Congress. It will reflect the UCLG full strength, the diversity of the World Organization, and the capacity to strike the right balance between what matters to the world and the priorities of continental regions and policy councils. The Assembly will strive to reinforce the strategy of the World Organization, by aligning the priorities of the Sections and the Secretariat, and ensuring that they are synchronized.

The Assembly will be in session during two days with different sittings taking place consequently. In each sitting, the Assembly will deliberate on, and present specific priorities that contribute to the **policies** of the World Organization.

Based on position papers submitted by the UCLG Sections, the session will be co-chaired by the regional and thematic political leaders. The panelists will present specific cases that serve as inspiring examples that contribute to the definition of our global policies. After the presentations the debate will be opened to the speakers, partners and members of UCLG. The outcome of the sessions will be released in a statement to be presented at the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments.

**Cities Are Listening**

**Share Listen Review**

A black and white photograph showing a person's hands holding a dark sign with the hashtag #Listen20 printed on it. The sign is held in the foreground, partially obscuring a modern, multi-story building with a grid-like facade in the background. The building is slightly out of focus. In the lower-left background, several flagpoles with flags are visible. The sky is bright and cloudy. The overall composition is a low-angle shot looking up at the building.

**#Listen20**

# 8

## COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGNS AND OUTREACH

Cities

Local  
and Regional  
Governments'  
**FORUM**

—  
16 July 2018 - New York

**COMMUNICATION  
CAMPAIGNS  
AND OUTREACH**



**THROUGHOUT THE 2017-2019 PERIOD, THE EFFORTS IN COMMUNICATION HAVE BEEN DIRECTED TO EXTEND THE OUTREACH OF OUR MESSAGES**, to fine-tune strategies with the different parts of the network and to further define specific target groups.

Our communication strategy has evolved to develop the storytelling of the organization and of our constituency around our publications. Our publications over the last year have showcased how our organization contributes to the achievement of the SDGs, and how our gatherings have allowed for strengthening the work of the joint constituency.

Further, the publication of our Learning Materials strengthened the idea of UCLG as the learning Network

for the achievement of the SDGs and the Localization of the Sendai Framework, and the publication.

UCLG has endeavoured to shift its relationship with the Press, aiming to expand the outreach and the understanding of our agenda through articles and interviews in both mainstream press (such as the Spanish El País or the British The Guardian) and specialized press (such as Smart Cities), bearing the torch for localization and aiming to amplify the voice of local and regional governments by reaching as many people as possible.

Our Communication campaigns have been launched with the aim to bolster the role of local and regional governments in the international arena. As such, our #CitiesForHousing campaign accompanied our delegation to the High-Level Political Forum, and #Listen2Cities proved to be an immense





success, being adopted at the various iterations of the High-Level Political Forum, the World Urban Forum, and the SDG Summit, allowing our delegation to shine through social media flux of the UN. Overall, our campaigns have enabled us to grow exponentially on-line.

**2017:** Six campaigns were launched to promote and strengthen the role of local and regional governments in the international arena. The campaigns focused on: **#BeCounted**, a UCLG campaign launched in New York during the 61st CSW calling the international community to improve data on gender equality in local government to drive the achievement of SDG 5; advocating for water as a fundamental right during the **2017 World Water Day**; promoting the participation and key messages to be discussed at the **2nd UCLG Culture Summit**; promoting the work of local and regional governments on the localization of the SDGs at the **2017 European Development Days (EDD)**; promoting

the report carried out by UCLG and the Global Taskforce for the **2017 HLPF**; **#Local4Action/#Regions4Action**, building on the #Listen2Cities initiative, the campaign aims to highlight the role of local and regional governments in the localization of the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda.

**#Listen2Cities**, launched during 2017, was essential to gather momentum before and during the 2018 and 2019 iterations of the High-Level Political Forum. The HLPF campaign allowed UCLG and the Global Taskforce to be more present than ever in the UN's social media flux. During the Local and Regional Governments' Forum, UCLG was the most visible account, and peaked at #3 during the HLPF. The campaign also managed to engage other accounts within the UCLG family -such as the GOLD team-, and allow them to reach a broader public.

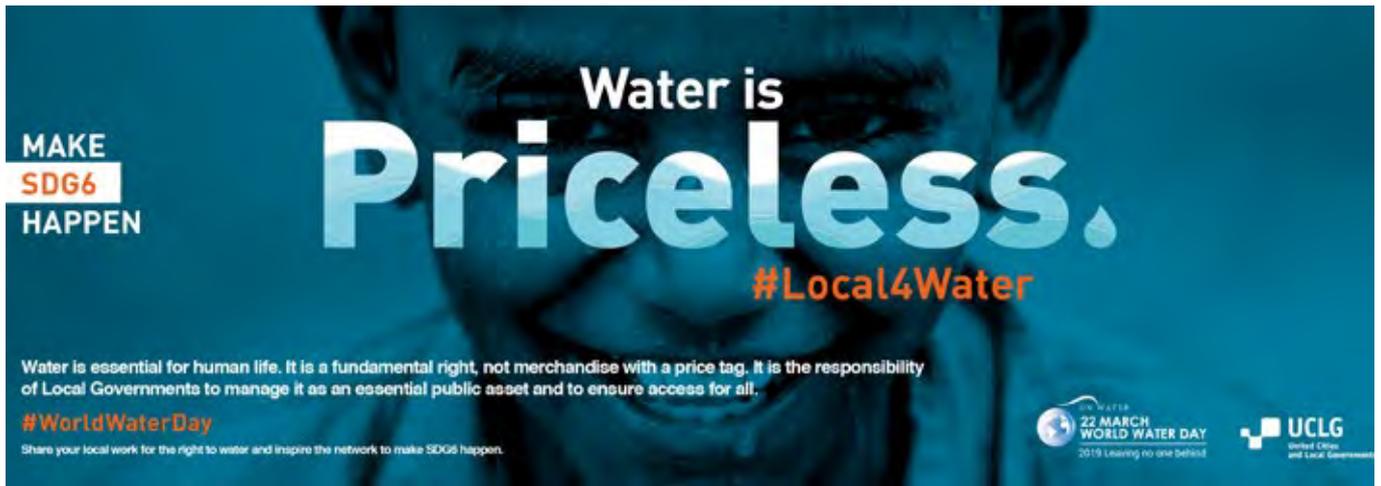
The **#CitiesforHousing** campaign, designed to accompany the presentation of the Cities for Housing Manifesto was also present at the High-Level Political Forum and beyond, particularly during the presentation of the Manifesto to highlight the demands of local and regional governments in regards to the right to housing. UCLG joined the **#Act4SDGs** campaign, launched by the United Nations, meant to showcase what individual and collective actors are doing in order to raise awareness

for the Global Goals, coinciding with the 3rd anniversary of their adoption on September 25. The Secretariat of UCLG contributed to the campaign by recording videos of members of UCLG and the staff commenting on how they contributed to the SDGs in their work or daily lives.

**#Local4Water** was launched in occasion of campaign for the World Water Day on the 22nd of March 2019, which had the motto “Water for All”.

The campaign, which called for the acknowledgment of the role of local and regional governments in providing water and sanitation in order to fulfil the right of water for all, mobilized mayors from Barcelona, Marrakech, Mexico, Seoul and Utrecht.

Promoting the work of local and regional governments on the localization of the SDGs has been an integral part of our campaign at the **2019 European Development Days (EDDs)**.



During these days, UCLG was in charge of a stand, together with **Platforma** and other partners of the Global Taskforce, and our presence on-line grew with the hashtag **#EDD19**.

Communication campaigns have allowed UCLG to **double** our presence in social media outlets such as **Twitter**, with our @uclg\_org account gaining over 11,000 followers over the course of three years. Our **Facebook** page has also grown upwards of 4,000 new fans, and has proven to become an important tool to communicate among the Network. Over the last year, UCLG has also worked to consolidate its presence on the most important professional community, **LinkedIn**, with over 3,600 followers since our account was created.

During the past 3 years, UCLG has endeavoured to produce high-quality audiovisual content that brings local and



regional experiences to another level. Throughout our statutory meetings and events such as the High-Level Political Forum, our **YouTube** platform has provided local and regional leaders, as well as partners such as Cities Alliance or the Global Platform for the Right to the City with the opportunity to share ideas through interviews.

Our **video** content has had an astounding impact, reaching a total of 124,317 views in 2019, an increase of 48% from the previous year. Our content has proven more to be both useful and attractive for members and the public, with a staying power of over 50%, and a growth of over 20% of subscribers each year.



### UCLG's latest social media impact



Twitter

#### Number of followers



↑ Increase of **6,249 followers**



Facebook

#### Number of fans



↑ Increase of **785 fans**



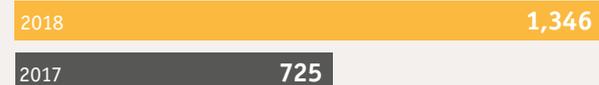
Youtube

#### Number of videos viewed



↑ Increase of **11,360 views (47.91%)**

#### Number of shared videos



↑ Increase of **621 shares (+86.66%)**



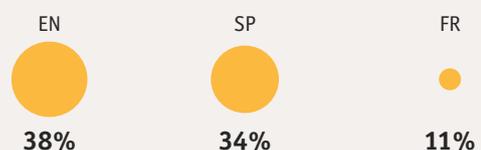
www.uclg.org

#### Number of users



↑ Increase of **67,015 users**

#### By language



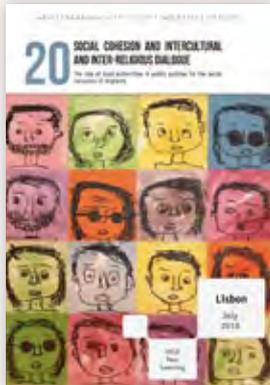
**Publications**

Eleven publications were produced and/or disseminated throughout 2017. The publications addressed: a peer learning event of the MC2CM project held in Lisbon on **social cohesion and intercultural and inter-religious dialogue**; the **2016 UCLG Annual Report**; the report **“Subnational governments around the world - Structure and finance”** as the first contribution to the Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment; the Global Taskforce report

on **our achievements at Habitat III**; the report of the **3rd UCLG Annual Retreat**; the publication on the UCLG Learning Agenda **“Seek sense share”**; the **2016-2022 UCLG Strategic Priorities**; the Local and Regional Governments Report to the 2017 HLPF **“National and sub-national governments on the way towards the localization of the SDGs”**; the Peer Learning Note **“Vital neighbourhoods in metropolitan cities”**; the publication **“The Sustainable Development Goals – SDGs in the municipal map”**; and the publication **“Smart Cities Study 2017”**.

Ten publications were produced and/or disseminated throughout 2018. These publications addressed: the role of UCLG in the achievement of the

2017



Social cohesion and intercultural and inter-religious dialogue



Subnational governments around the world - Structure and finance



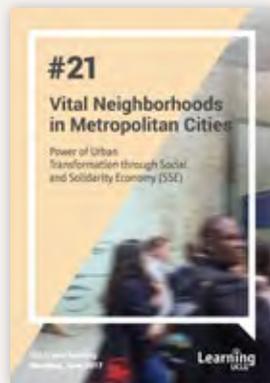
Our achievements at Habitat III



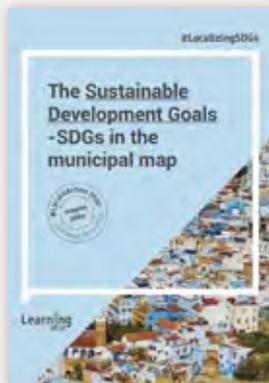
Seek sense share



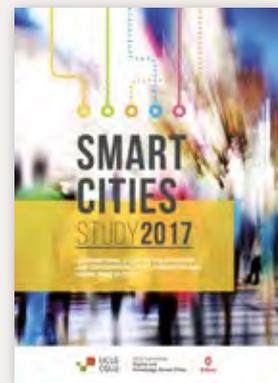
2016-2022 UCLG Strategic Priorities



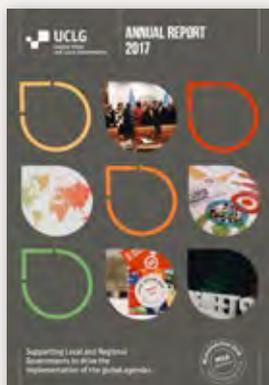
Vital neighbourhoods in metropolitan cities



The Sustainable Development Goals – SDGs in the municipal map



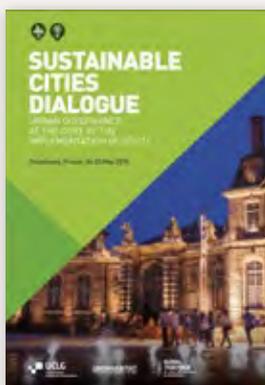
Smart Cities Study 2017



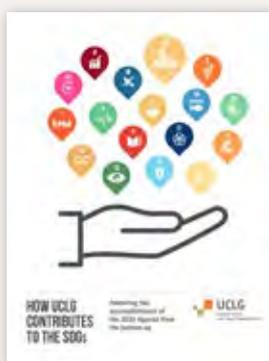
Annual Report 2017



Retreat&Campus 2018



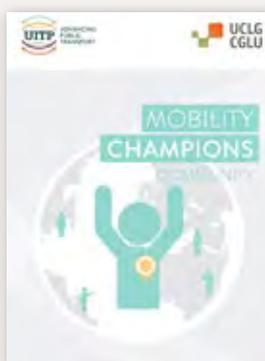
Sustainable cities dialogue



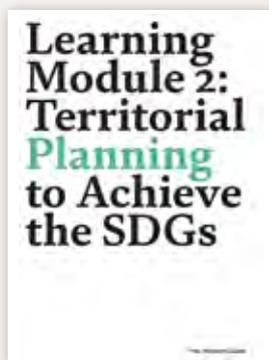
How UCLG contributes to the SDGs



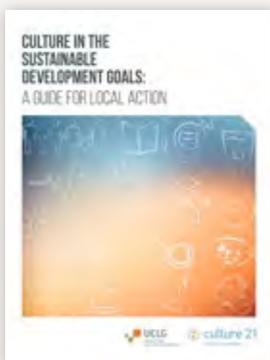
Monitoring the global agenda



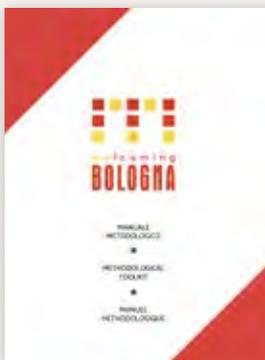
Mobility champions



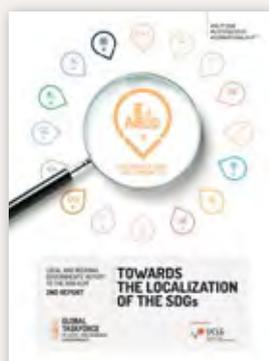
Learning Module 2: Localizing the SDGs



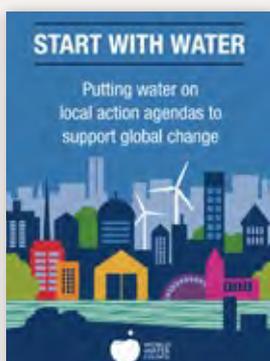
Culture in the sustainable development goals: A guide for local action



Welcoming Bologna



Towards the localization of the SDGs



Start with Water

SDGs with “How UCLG Contributes to the SDGs”, the **2nd Local and Regional Governments Report to the 2018 HLPF** “National and sub-national governments on the way towards the localization of the SDGs”; the **Annual Report of 2017**, the report of the **4th UCLG Annual Retreat**; the guide “**Culture in the Sustainable Development Goals: A Guide for Local Action**”, together with UCLG’s Culture 21 Committee; the SDG Mandala Tool to measure the global agenda in cities; and the joint publications the “**Sustainable Cities Dialogue**”; the “**Welcoming Bologna**” methodological toolkit; the “**Mobility Champions**” publication; and the “**Start with Water**” guide.

Eight publications were produced and/or disseminated throughout 2019. Among them, the **3rd Local and Regional Governments Report to the 2019 HLPF** “Towards the localization of the SDGs”; the **Annual Report of 2018**, the report of the **5th UCLG Annual Retreat**; the **2019 Report on the World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment**, together with the OECD, the **3rd Learning Module on Reporting to national and local reviews** -together with UN-Habitat, UNDP, and the Barcelona Provincial Council; the **Soria Commitment on Intermediary Cities**, together with the Spanish Federation on Municipalities and Provinces, and the Soria Municipality.

2018

Three documents have been produced to provide further information and introduce aspects of the World Congress: the **UCLG Congress Landing Guide**, and the programme of the **UCLG Learning Forum**, which takes place in the framework of the UCLG World Summit, and the **Detailed Programme** of the UCLG Congress.

2019



**Newsletters**

**Twelve monthly newsletters** have been sent to the wide network of contacts each year. These newsletters included regular information and updates of interest for local and regional governments and collected information by the UCLG World Secretariat, Sections, Committees and Working Groups, and members.

Using specific campaign tools, over 30 mass sendings were sent to promote the **2nd and 3rd UCLG Culture Summit**, and inform about the **UCLG Executive Bureaus, World Council, and the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders**.

<p>Annual Report 2018</p>	<p>Retreat&amp;Campus 2019</p>	<p>Local and Regional Action</p>
<p>World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment</p>	<p>Learning Module on Reporting to national and local reviews</p>	<p>Soria Commitment on Intermediary Cities</p>
<p>3rd Report-Towards the localization of the SDGs</p>	<p>Fostering a localization movement- Acceleration Commitment</p>	

**The growth of our Narrative**

UCLG has endeavoured, throughout the mandate of the current Presidency, to push for an increased outreach of its narrative on localization, on the role of local and regional governments in service provision, and on the role of the Network and the constituency in securing spaces for local and regional governments in the decision-making process, among other matters.

In line with this strategy, UCLG has published articles in a range of newspapers and blogs to showcase our initiatives, our publications, and the perspectives of the global movement in matters that affect our communities. Our members have collaborated with the publication and/or the dissemination of our articles in both print and on-line media throughout the year.



In 2017, UCLG published four articles in the *Ciudad Sostenible* magazine and *Andalucía Solidaria* newsletter on public space, local actions for global challenges and a seat at the global table for local governments. In the framework of the **#BeCounted** campaign, three op-eds were published to give visibility to the campaign on women's participation in local governments. Additional articles were published in **Citiscopes**, **EuropaPress** and **EFE** within this campaign thanks to dissemination and press releases by UCLG. An article was also published in *Citiscopes* by UCLG and its **CIB Working Group** on the SDG review process. A guest article was published on IISD's knowledge hub on the report to the **2017 HLPF**, and DeLOG published an article on the UCLG President, Parks Tau. An article was also published by the learning team at the UCLG World Secretariat on **cities and technology**.

In the framework of our campaign **towards HLPF 2018**, Secretary General Emilia Saiz published an article on the HLPF Blog, and a guest article was published on IISD on the IISD Knowledge Hub, focusing on the 2nd "Towards the Localization of the SDGs" report. An additional article was also published in Spanish paper *El País* commenting the outcomes and the expectations of the constituency after the HLPF.

An article titled "**World Urban Forum 9: A promise or a responsibility?**" was published on the *Citiscopes*, as well as two op-eds for CIDOB; one which centred on the role of cities in the global agendas, and another focusing on the outcomes of the CIDOB

Seminar "Rethinking the Ecosystem of International City Networks: Challenges and Opportunities", published in 2019 under the title "**We need to rethink the global governance model in order to build a future for our communities**".

Towards the Congress, our strategy has been to contribute to specialized media for a specialized outlook on the Congress (such as IISD, Dexex, Urbanet, Anteverti, Smart city, or Urbanicity) as well as with broader media, working with Global Cad and other communication consulting firms to reach the broader media and public.

UCLG has published an article in Spanish paper *El País*, on the role of intermediary cities and the Soria Commitment under the title "Intermediary Cities, key for sustainable development".

An article submitted by UCLG on the role of local and regional governments as gatekeepers of democracy, titled "**Health of European Democracy: Building trust from local governments**" was published by the **Open Government Partnership**, and an interview was published by **Smart Cities**, on the challenges and opportunities that the global development agendas bring, and on how to achieve them from the bottom-up.

UCLG has also expanded its horizon by collaborating with media partners such as **Alternativas Económicas** for the first time, with an article on "The importance of local action for the well-being of our citizens"

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United Cities and Local Governments  
Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis  
Ciudades y Gobiernos Locales Unidos  
Avinyó 15 08002 Barcelona  
[www.uclg.org](http://www.uclg.org)

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