

2nd WORLD ASSEMBLY

of local and regional
governments



**Third UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development
(Habitat III)
Second World Assembly of Local and Regional
Governments**



We, local and regional governments from across the globe, representing the populations of metropolises, peripheral cities, intermediary cities, regions, rural areas, and small municipalities, are gathered at the **Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments**, convened by the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments and our local government associations, for the Third UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) to:

Celebrate:

1. The adoption of the **"Quito Declaration on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements for All"** by Member States of the UN to set global standards of achievement in sustainable urban development.
2. The reference to the contributions of sub-national and local governments to the **Quito Declaration**, in particular the reference to the **World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments** in paragraph 8.

3. The recognition of “the importance of continuing to engage in the **follow-up and review** of the New Urban Agenda with sub-national and local governments associations represented at the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments” in paragraph 169.
4. The commitment of Member States to launch a **2-years process** until September 2018 that mandates the UN Secretary General and UN General Assembly to conduct consultations, dialogues and analysis and agree on the institutional framework of the follow-up and review of the New Urban Agenda in paragraphs 171-172.
5. **The Quito Declaration’s recognition that the New Urban Agenda must contribute to the implementation and localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** in an integrated manner, and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets, including SDG 11 of making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable, in paragraph 9.
6. The landmark inclusion of a reference to the **Right to the City** as part of a shared vision of “cities for all” in paragraph 11 of the Quito Declaration, as well as the recognition of many of the core principles of the Right to the City in the text.
7. The commitment of Member States to ensure appropriate fiscal, political and administrative **decentralization** based on the principle of **subsidiarity** in paragraph 89.
8. The commitment of Member States to **strengthen the capacities of local governments** to implement effective **multi-level governance** across administrative borders, and to ensure reliable financing mechanisms in metropolitan areas in paragraph 90.
9. The commitment of Member States to promote participatory policy and planning approaches rooted in new forms of **direct partnership** between civil society and governments at all levels in paragraph 92.
10. The commitment of Member States to “take measures to **promote women’s full and effective participation and equal rights** in all fields and in leadership at all levels of decision-making, including in local governments” in paragraph 90.
11. The Quito Declaration’s reference to the importance of planning and “an **integrated urban and territorial approach**” to encourage urban-rural interactions and connectivity in paragraph 50.
12. The commitment of Member States to **expand decentralized and city-to-city cooperation** to contribute to sustainable urban development in paragraph 146.

Commit to:

1. Lead local action for global sustainability by **localizing** international policy agendas and working to raise awareness of, implement and monitor the New Urban Agenda, the SDGs, and other global agendas in our cities and territories.
2. Adopt an **integrated territorial approach** to sustainable development that recognizes the continuum of urban-rural linkages and promotes territorial cohesion.
3. Govern in partnership, working towards the effective guarantee of the **Right to the City** for all in our cities and territories, ensuring the right to housing and sharing and protecting the **commons**.
4. Foster **inclusive economic development** and decent jobs with a particular emphasis on the social and solidarity economies.

5. Move towards sustainable production and consumption patterns, including the circular economy, and act to mitigate and adapt to **climate change** and reduce **disaster risks**.
6. **Empower citizens**, particularly women, to fully participate in local political, social, economic and cultural life to promote the **co-creation of cities and territories** by all who live in them.
7. Harness **integrated urban and territorial planning** to reduce urban sprawl, prevent socio-spatial fragmentation, upgrade slums and poor neighbourhoods, and create quality, safe, green, inclusive and accessible public spaces, as well as to build **polycentric metropolitan areas**.
8. Integrate **culture** as the fourth pillar of sustainable development and take action to foster heritage, creativity, diversity and peaceful co-existence.
9. Increase the transparency and accountability of local and regional institutions to **strengthen local democracy**.
10. Build solidarity between cities and territories and enhance **inter-municipal cooperation**.
11. **Collaborate internationally** through decentralized development cooperation and peer-to-peer learning to share experiences of how to promote sustainable development.
12. Work to clarify the modalities of the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments in order to **ensure our effective engagement in the implementation and follow up of the New Urban Agenda**.

Call on the international community to:

1. Embark on a **new era of partnership in global governance** and renew the relationship between local and regional governments and the UN to include the structural consultation of our constituency.
2. **Link up the implementation and follow-up of all global sustainability agendas** at global, national and local level, including the SDGs, the Paris Climate Agreement, the Sendai Framework, the Addis Ababa Agenda and the New Urban Agenda.
3. Dramatically **improve municipal infrastructure finance** by creating an enabling environment at global and national levels with new public and private financing instruments, including a global fund for infrastructures, basic services and housing, city-responsive development banks, direct access for subnational governments to climate finance, increased powers for cities to control finance, and vertical alignment policy-planning among levels of government. Create a **Global Partnership for Localizing Finance** to act as a multi-stakeholder and multilevel umbrella coalition fostering dedicated programs and funding lines for local and regional governments.
4. Recognize the need for the **World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments** to become a significant and representative mechanism through which local and regional governments can provide political guidance and technical follow-up on the global sustainability agenda.

16th of October 2016, Quito, Ecuador