



UCLG

United Cities
and Local Governments

2015

ANNUAL REPORT

UNITED CITIES: The power
of a world organization
The diversity of local action

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**UNITY
PARTNERSHIP
DIVERSITY**

**UCLG is the World
Organization of Cities
and Local and Regional
Governments**

EDITORIAL

As you read our annual report, you will discover that 2015 was a landmark year for UCLG and Local Authorities worldwide.

The key achievements of 2015 include the signature of a strategic partnership with the European Union, the creation of an online platform for exchanges between Local Authorities, the inclusion of a goal on cities and human settlements in the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Climate Agreement, the development of our learning and cooperation network, the implementation of an Agenda **by** and **for** Local Authorities by means of an extensive bottom-up process, the official inclusion in the New Urban Agenda process, Habitat III, and the coordination of various networks of Local Authorities within the Global Taskforce.

These major accomplishments demonstrate that by choosing to unite, Local Authorities strengthen each other and become a key partner of the international community.

The challenges have now been shared and recognized, and Local Authorities, as the primary implementors of global solutions, are key to addressing them. It is therefore essential to ensure their participation and to make their voices heard.

In 2016, UCLG, as the unique generalist Organization that represents Local Authorities, will resolutely continue to work to this end.

There are several upcoming major events, including the Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments, the UCLG World Congress and Habitat III, to which a large part of our energy will be devoted.

Let us be clear: 2016 must strengthen the influence of Local Authorities. Our structural dialogue with the UN must move forward: we are a sphere of government and, as such, **we need a seat at the global table in order to be able to contribute to discussions and decision-making.**

In 2016, we will also increase and strengthen our capacities for cooperation noticeably. We will offer Local Authorities that are members of UCLG much more than representation alone; we will provide them with tools which will enable them to exchange and become stronger, in particular by developing decentralized cooperation, peer-to-peer links and communities of practice.

As they are in direct contact with the expectations of their citizens, Local Authorities are the best guarantor of public interest. UCLG's ambition is to share our experiences, defend our interests and promote solidarity among Local Authorities, with one aim: working for the well-being of the citizens that we represent.



Josep Roig Secretary General



As they have a direct perception of the common good, Local and Regional Authorities have a central role to play in the global agenda.

By choosing to unite, they become the key partner of the international community.

Kadir Topbaş
Mayor of Istanbul, Turkey, UCLG President

UCLG: THE KEY FIGURES

240,000



+ 240,000 regions and metropolises

175



+ 175 national associations of local and regional governments

5,000,000,000



+ 5 billion people in the world

70%



+ 70% of the world's total population

140



140 of the 193 UN Member States

UCLG also comprises

- ✓ 1 World Secretariat
- ✓ 7 Regional Sections
- ✓ 1 Metropolitan Section
- ✓ 1 Forum of Regions
- ✓ 12 Committees
- ✓ 6 Working Groups
- ✓ 2 Taskforces



HIGHLIGHTS

2015

Establishment of a strategic partnership between UCLG and the EU for the implementation of its local development policies

Creation of an online platform for exchange and cooperation among local governments

Inclusion of a goal on cities and human settlements (SDG 11) into the 2030 Agenda

Preparation of the Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments

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1.

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION AND ADVOCACY

**Defending the autonomy of Local
Authorities**

**Including the systematic consideration of
local realities in national and international
agenda**

**Offering the international community a
concrete course of action at local level**



“

In the face of worldwide challenges, no global solution can ever be implemented without the participation of Local Authorities.

Anne Hidalgo
Mayor of Paris, France,
UCLG Co-President, Chair of the Standing
Committee on Gender Equality



2030 AGENDA

Local realities now included in the global development agenda

The 2030 Agenda is the new global development agenda. It succeeds the Agenda 21 through the Rio+20 and post-2015 processes.

As part of the Global Taskforce, UCLG and its partners achieved the inclusion of a specific goal on cities and human settlements: SDG 11.

Over and above the international community's historic recognition of local issues, SDG 11 paves the way for genuine consideration of the concerns of local and regional authorities, particularly with respect to the financing of the new development goals.

WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

THE LOCAL VOICE HEARD ON THE GLOBAL STAGE



In 2015, the work undertaken by UCLG to bring local voices to the global debates culminated in September in the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in New York and the inclusion of a specific goal on sustainable cities and human settlements (SDG 11).

UCLG also advocated for the localization (or implementation at local level) of all 17 goals of the agenda, highlighting the potential of local leaders to transform abstract goals into concrete action on the ground.

Throughout 2015, UCLG and the Global Taskforce participated in the Post-2015 Intergovernmental Negotiations, through the Local Authorities Major Group.

In this Group and in other fora, UCLG did its utmost for SDG 11 on sustainable cities and human settlements to be included. It also advocated for all the other goals and targets to be implemented and monitored at local level, by calling attention to disaggregated territorial indicators, the essential role of urban-rural linkages in territorial development and the need to improve disaster risk management at local level. UCLG also continued to advocate for greater recognition of local and regional authorities in the new global partnership for sustainable development.

THE ROLE OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES RECOGNIZED FOR ALL 17 SDGs

At the 2015 Sustainable Development Summit, this advocacy work resulted in the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the inclusion of SDG 11. Sixty elected local officials from all around the world were in New York as part of the UCLG delegation. **The role of local and regional authorities in the achievement of all 17 goals was recognized.**

The structure of the new mechanisms defined at the Summit, the reach of the High-level Political Forum (HLPF), the political oversight of the New Urban Agenda and the financial facilities put in place to implement the 2030 Agenda are the next stages on which UCLG will continue to work.

MORE INFORMATION

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

A KEY STEP TOWARDS THE LOCALIZATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA

An important step was taken in New York during the third High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The Local Authorities Major Group (LAMG), represented by UCLG President, Kadir Topbaş, reiterated the commitment of Local Authorities to actively contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and emphasized the direct relevance of many of the 17 SDGs to the Local Authorities' daily responsibilities. According to experts, it is estimated that 65% of the targets relate to local and regional authorities.

The LAMG also called for the Forum to become a genuine



monitoring platform that enables the transmission of knowledge between key constituencies, such as local and subnational governments, with decision-making structures.

Furthermore, in the second half of 2014, UCLG had drawn up a technical report of concrete proposals for localized indicators for SDG 11 and other Sustainable Development Goals with a strong local dimension. The proposals called for targets and indicators that were suitable for both urban and rural contexts.

In 2015, UCLG used this report to support its inputs to the Bangalore meeting organized by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN). Most of the proposals for SDG 11 indicators were included in the UN Statistical Commission's recommendations.

Towards a single global agenda covering all the pillars of development

During the third High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the President of UCLG welcomed the convergence of the Sustainable Development and Post-2015 agendas and called for the Financing for Development, Climate Change and Habitat III agendas to be combined into a single, universal development agenda.

He reiterated that Local Authorities do not work in sectors or silos on the ground and that the world's mayors are demanding a coherent, holistic vision that covers the economic, social, environmental and cultural pillars of sustainable development.

GLOBAL TASKFORCE THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP



UCLG promotes the political voice of local and regional governments in the new development agenda through the Global Taskforce (GTF), which brings together the major international local networks, whatever their size or focus.

Facilitated by UCLG, the Global Taskforce strengthened its position during the course of the last year and is now recognized as the **reference point for advocacy efforts and the representation of our members to the international community.**

The Global Taskforce pioneered the movement pushing for the integration of the Post-2015 development process and the follow-up to Rio+20, which were originally conceived as two separate international agendas. It also persistently calls for the links between the SDGs and the Habitat III and the Financing for Development Agendas to be strengthened.



For UCLG, developing partnerships between networks is the best way to include the recognition of local issues in the global agenda.



HABITAT III

Local and regional governments, a driving force behind the Habitat III Agenda



In October 2016, the international community will adopt a New Urban Agenda at the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III).

As the World Organization of Cities and Local Authorities, UCLG has stepped up the number of initiatives to actively contribute to the preparatory work and to ensure a “localized” approach.

To establish this approach, UCLG also proposed that members of the Global Taskforce convene the Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments.



UN-Habitat has been supporting (...) the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments for the post-2015 Development Agenda towards Habitat III (...) in the new United Nations urban agenda.

Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

Extract from the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its 70th Session



LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

DRIVING FORCES BEHIND THE HABITAT III AGENDA

Through Habitat III, the UN aims to respond to the new challenges of urbanization. This programme will, therefore, have a major impact for Cities and Local Authorities.

Throughout 2015, UCLG continuously advocated for a territorial approach to development that takes into account urban centres, their surrounding regions and rural areas.

As part of the Global Taskforce, UCLG was particularly heedful of the adoption of the Rules of Procedure for the Habitat III Conference.

This approach was highly successful as the Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments will play a leading role at the Habitat III Conference.



Two important events influenced the background to Habitat III in 2015: the second session of the Preparatory Committee of Habitat III (PrepCom2) and the Governing Council of UN-Habitat.

PrepCom2 was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 14 to 16 April. It was followed immediately after by the 25th Governing Council of UN-Habitat, which took place from 17 to 23 April, also in Nairobi. A delegation of 70 local and regional governments were directly involved.

The main objective of PrepCom2 was to agree upon the modalities of the 2016 Conference and the involvement of non-state actors. The adoption of the Rules of Procedure for the Habitat III Conference, which will define the type of accreditation and extent of participation, was therefore an important milestone for Local Authorities and civil society.

As part of the official programme of PrepCom2, a special event for local and regional authorities was organized on 13 April. Its aim was to recall the spirit of Habitat II, by which local governments were recognized as the main partners of UN-Habitat in the implementation of the previous Habitat Agenda.

The UCLG delegation recalled that Habitat II was an important step forward in recognizing the legitimacy of international networks of Local Authorities and called for a renewed partnership and specific recognition in the Habitat III process.

As facilitator of the Global Taskforce, the Bureau of PrepCom2 invited a UCLG delegation to present an implementation process for its contribution to the Habitat III Conference.

SECOND WORLD ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS, FORMAL MECHANISM FOR PARTICIPATION IN HABITAT III

Building on the First World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments held in the framework of Habitat II in 1996, where Local Authorities committed to build UCLG as a “single voice for local governments and their associations”, the members proposed to organize the Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments through the Global Taskforce.



The proposal to organize the Second Assembly was accepted by the Bureau of Habitat III. This Assembly will be the process and coordination mechanism through which cities and Local Authorities will participate in the formal Habitat III process. It will seek to express the positions and proposals supported by Local Authorities in the New Urban Agenda.

Furthermore, significantly, a Report by the Secretary-General of the United Nations specifically mentions the work carried out by the Global



The Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments: a major meeting for 2016

The Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments will be the process and coordination mechanism through which Local Authorities will participate in the formal Habitat III process.

It is a process that consists of three assembly sessions, which will be held during 2016; the first will take place in New York on 15 May, the second at the UCLG Congress on 14 October, and the third during the Habitat III Conference on 17 October.

All local and regional governments that register through one of the international networks that form part of the Global Taskforce may participate in the Assembly.

Taskforce for the first time. This highlights the efforts made, particularly during PrepCom2, and formally recognizes the importance of the involvement of Local Authorities in the Habitat III processes.

10 POLICY UNITS

TASKED WITH DEVELOPING CONCRETE AND “LOCALIZED” RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HABITAT III

Inputs to the Habitat III Conference are being developed, and UCLG is leading the process for the Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments by ensuring the participation of Local Authority leaders and experts in the Habitat III consultations and formal processes, particularly through the United Nations Advisory Committee for Local Authorities (UNACLA).

The preparatory process of Habitat III has led to the creation of 10 Policy Units, each composed of 20 experts, which were selected from nominations received by Member States and various stakeholders, such as the Global Taskforce.

These ten Units are working on the Issue Papers which UN-Habitat published. Their main duty is to develop concrete and “localized” recommendations for the implementation of Habitat III.

UCLG, within the framework of the Global Taskforce and in coordination with its partners, was also appointed by the Secretary-General of Habitat III to co-lead the Policy Unit on Urban Governance, Capacity and Institutional Development with the London School of Economics Cities Programme (LSE Cities). UCLG put forward a list of experts, which were selected by the Habitat III Secretariat.



MORE INFORMATION

UNACLA A DIRECT ADVISORY ROLE TO UN-HABITAT



UNACLA is the United Nations Advisory Committee for Local Authorities. In 2015, this body was reinvigorated by two meetings, one in Nairobi in April and another in New York in September.

At the meeting held in New York, the UCLG President presented a set of proposals to strengthen the consultative role of the UNACLA in relation to Habitat III. UCLG proposed, in particular, to ensure an institutional representation in UNACLA that would guarantee links between the United Nations and Local Authorities.



A NEW STRUCTURE WHICH ENABLES LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO BETTER CONTRIBUTE TO GLOBAL POLICIES

Upon the proposal from the UCLG President, also Chair of UNACLA, new members joined the Committee, including all UCLG Sections and the members of the Global Taskforce coordinated by UCLG (CLGF, AIMF, ICLEI, Citynet, Mercociudades and ATO). This expansion is consistent with UNACLA's intention to be the advisory body for strengthening international dialogue.

These developments and the new structure of UNACLA enable Local Authorities to make a greater contribution to global policies and the designing of sustainable structures.

In 2015, the members were therefore able to further leverage the revitalized UNACLA contribution to the ongoing international processes, such as the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda and Habitat III. Specifically, **UNACLA will be advising the Working Group that relates to Local Authorities in the Habitat III process and will ensure the link between the Global Taskforce and the formal process.**

CLIMATE AGENDA

Local action and alliances of networks towards COP 21

The 21st United Nations Climate Change Conference – or COP 21 – took place in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015.

For UCLG, COP 21 was the opportunity to put a historic spotlight on the central position of Local Authorities.

Almost 800 delegates took part in the Climate Summit for Local Leaders, organized by the Mayor of Paris in partnership with UCLG and other city networks.

A dedicated segment was reserved for Local Authorities in the formal COP 21 structure.

COP21

UNPRECEDENTED MOBILIZATION FOR SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ACTION AGENDA

In response to the issue of climate change, most stakeholders acknowledge that no global solutions or desire to change behaviour or habits can succeed without a strong and concrete intermediary at local level.

Throughout 2015, UCLG carried out intensive advocacy work in order to prepare for COP 21. Its aims included broadening the climate change debate to include aspects concerning social and human rights of sustainable development at global level.

The preparations for COP 21 were also an opportunity to build on the Compact of Mayors adopted the year before.

This is an example of horizontal cooperation which culminated in the Climate Summit for Local Leaders and the adoption of a specific climate agenda for Local Authorities.



Since the launch of the Local Government Climate Roadmap in Bali in 2007, UCLG and Local Authorities have gained extensive experience in innovating and collaborating to tackle the causes and consequences of climate change.

Throughout 2015, UCLG worked within the framework of the Local Government Climate Roadmap, facilitated by ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability), in order to increase the influence of its members in the international negotiation process. **Attention was focused on two key strategies: enhancing the formal role of Local Authorities and developing partnerships between Local Authorities and civil society.**

During the talks, UCLG also called for a strong and effective global climate regime and a global community of climate experts that would ensure implementation at all levels.

UCLG invited all Member States participating in COP 21 to adopt a multi-stakeholder Action Plan as an integral part of the Paris Agreement, in order to strengthen the involvement of Local and Subnational Authorities in climate change policies on mitigation and adaptation, particularly by building capacities and increasing financial and technological resources.

MECHANISMS TO SUPPORT CLIMATE-RESILIENT ACTION AT LOCAL LEVEL

UCLG also pressed for the implementation of renewed multilateral partnerships and the development of mechanisms intended to support local, low-carbon, resource-efficient and climate-resilient action in the pre-2020 period. The creation of a specific space for local authorities in the various structures in charge of implementing the results of multilateral negotiations was also a key recommendation.

As a result of this intense advocacy work, the French Presidency, together with the Peruvian Presidency and the Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, worked on the Lima-Paris Action Agenda and developed a specific agenda for local and regional authorities. Local and regional authorities, therefore, had a dedicated segment in the formal COP 21 structure.

At the summit, local leaders from around the world put their commitments on a formal footing by adopting and signing a joint political declaration, which addressed all the aspects of combating climate change: emissions reductions, adaptation and financing.

In order for cities to influence the formal negotiations, a delegation of Local Leaders, led by Michael Bloomberg and Anne Hidalgo announced the conclusions of the Summit in Bourget, within the formal framework of COP 21 on Action Day, 5 December, the day after the Summit.

Climate Summit for Local Leaders tomorrow's climate starts today



On the sidelines of COP 21, the Climate Summit for Local Leaders led to the Paris City Hall Declaration, in which the signatories commit to climate change goals.

The Mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo, opened the summit by warning: **“the climate change crisis is not in the distant future, it is now”**.

French President François Hollande expressed his conviction that Local Authorities needed to be the drivers of change, and he recognized the need to ensure adequate funding to that end.

The Climate Summit for Local Leaders culminated in the Paris City Hall Declaration, in which the

signatories reaffirmed their commitment to combating climate change.

In particular, they commit collectively to:

- Advance and exceed the goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement reached at COP 21.
- Deliver up to 3.7 gigatons of urban greenhouse gas emissions reductions annually by 2030.
- Support ambitious climate goals, such as a transition to 100% renewable energy in their communities.
- They also pledge to coordinate their climate action, with a view towards the Habitat III Conference in 2016.

“YOU’VE REACHED AN AGREEMENT, NOW IT’S UP TO US TO MAKE IT HAPPEN!”

The Paris Agreement states that global warming should be limited to below 2 degrees Celsius, but efforts will be made to pursue a 1.5-degree target. Through this Agreement, the Parties to the UNFCCC recognize that “adaptation is a global challenge faced by all”.

At COP 21, local and regional leaders stressed the need to link the climate agenda to the 2030 Agenda and to Habitat III. They pointed out the importance of citizen participation and creating inclusive social policies, in order to ensure effective implementation of the sustainable development agenda in its broadest sense. Thus, the inclusion of a clear reference to the 2030 Agenda in the preface was welcomed.



Several important events were part of the mobilization at COP 21: the announcement that over 400 cities had signed the Compact of Mayors, the follow-up to the World Summit on Climate and Territories, the Cities and Regions Pavilion and the celebrations of the UNFCCC Action Day on 5 December.

Local Authorities adopted several common positions:

- The Paris City Hall Declaration
- The Lima-Paris (LPAA) Action Agenda
- The Paris Pledge for Action.

FOR AN INTEGRATED APPROACH WHICH RECOGNIZES LOCAL AUTHORITIES AS GOVERNMENTAL STAKEHOLDERS

During the talks held in Bonn in September and October 2015, ICLEI and UCLG advocated to reintroduce a reference to the specific role of local and subnational authorities in the draft declaration to be adopted in Paris at the COP 21, referring to the Cancun agreement which recognized Local Authorities as governmental stakeholders.

UCLG also urged for a local approach that would reflect SDG 11 to be reinforced.

Following on from the Summit on Climate and Territories held in Lyon in July, UCLG pushed for a territorial approach involving and ensuring cooperation among all non-state actors at local and subnational levels to be acknowledged.

“You’ve reached an agreement, now it’s up to us to make it happen!”. This was the message from Ronan Dantec, Deputy Mayor of Nantes and UCLG climate spokesperson. At the opening plenary session on 1 December, he had urged States to reach an agreement and guaranteed that Local Authorities would carry out the work required to implement it.

WORLD SUMMIT ON CLIMATE AND TERRITORIES

800 REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND CIVIL SOCIETY UNITED TO PREPARE FOR COP 21



The partnership between Local Authorities and civil society, established in the framework of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, has become stronger as a result of the climate negotiations.

After their joint statement on the occasion of the Climate Summit in September 2014, local and regional governments invited civil society organizations to work jointly towards the World Summit on Climate and Territories, organized by the Rhône-Alpes Region and UCLG, in Lyon, France, on 1 and 2 July 2015.

800 participants attended the two days of workshops and plenaries. Attendees included the French President, François Hollande, the Vice-President of the European Commission, Maroš Šefčovič, and the European Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy, Miguel Arias Cañete.

The main global and European networks worked with organizations from civil society and the private sector to develop joint position papers on the following 10 key issues for the negotiating texts: forests; mobility and transport; education,

mobilization and awareness-raising; energy generation, distribution and consumption; low-carbon economy and jobs; agriculture; decentralized cooperation and territorial partnerships; financing; adaptation; and territorial planning. These papers put forward proposals to improve the negotiating text with a view to enhancing the capacities of territorial stakeholders.

As co-organizer of the Summit, UCLG mobilized Local Authorities, and the Committee on Local Finance and Development co-organized a workshop on financing mechanisms with GERES, a civil society organization.

UCLG, as an organization representing over 270,000 territories and two thirds of the world's population, committed to encourage its membership to limit their emissions, taking into account their specific contexts and levels of development, and provided that they were supported adequately in terms of appropriate means of implementation and governance frameworks.

MORE INFORMATION

COMPACT OF MAYORS

A SIGNIFICANT PARTNERSHIP TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

The Compact of Mayors is a global coalition of mayors and city officials pledging to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions, enhance resilience to climate change and track their progress transparently.

The Compact of Mayors was launched on 23 September 2014, at the United Nations Secretary-General's Climate Summit in New York under the supervision of C40 – Cities Climate Leadership Group, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, and UCLG. It was supported by UN-Habitat, the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Cities and Climate Change and the United Nations Secretary-General's Climate Change Support Team.

The Compact enables cities to publicly commit to significant GHG emissions reductions, by making existing targets and their plans public, and reporting on their progress annually in the

carbonn Climate Registry or Carbon Disclosure Programme (CDP), using the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories (GPC, which is recognized as the global reporting standards for States).

In the context of the preparations for COP 21, UCLG and its Sections supported the efforts made by the Compact, by mobilizing its members. In the months leading up to the Paris Climate Change Conference, the three networks joined forces in order to obtain the highest number of signatories to the Compact, with the aim of increasing the visibility of action taken by cities around the world during the Conference.

The Compact also draws on the Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action (NAZCA), which was launched in Lima on the initiative of the Peruvian Presidency of COP 20.

In September 2015 in New York, 10 global cities from five continents, representing 58 million people and more than US\$3 trillion in GDP, joined pioneer Rio de Janeiro in announcing that they had met all planning and reporting requirements laid down by the Compact of Mayors. By doing so, the cities presented ambitious climate action plans before COP 21, the Paris Climate Change Conference.



ADDIS ABABA ACTION AGENDA

ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT

A clear UN commitment to financing for Local Authorities

The Addis Ababa International Conference on Financing for Development was held in July 2015. It was an opportunity to highlight the essential role of financing at local level in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

A delegation of around 60 local representatives from 20 countries attended the Conference.

The UCLG Committee on Local Finance and Development strongly advocated for the principle of local capacity building.

In the final declaration, the UN acknowledged that financing for sustainable development essentially falls on the shoulders of Local Authorities, and committed to support them.

ADDIS ABABA CONFERENCE

FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT WILL ALSO BE “LOCALIZED”

The goal of the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD3) was to define “a global framework for financing sustainable development”.

The results of this Conference were, therefore, going to be decisive for the

Conference on the development and implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

As part of its contribution to the Global Taskforce, UCLG, with the support of its Committee on Local Finance and Development, led subnational governments’ contributions to the FfD3 process.

The conclusions from the Conference are unambiguous: the international community is committed to helping Local Authorities “particularly to strengthen their capacities”.



The Addis Ababa International Conference on Financing for Development was held in July 2015. It was an opportunity to highlight a prerequisite for the success of the 2030 Agenda: financing for Local Authorities.

A delegation of around 60 local representatives from 20 countries attended the Conference, including UCLG Co-Presidents, the CLGF Vice-Chair, a high-level delegation from UCLGA, CLGF and FMDV, and Local Authority representatives from across the world.

FISCAL DECENTRALIZATION AND ACCESS TO FINANCE TO STRENGTHEN LOCAL CAPACITIES

UCLG advocacy focused on the urgent need to finance infrastructure investments in the heart of rapidly expanding urban areas.

UCLG also actively advocated for the strengthening of local capacities, the promotion of fiscal decentralization and the opening-up of access to global financing funds to Local Authorities.

Several important points from the contribution that local and regional governments made to the Final Outcome Document are worth noting: ensuring appropriate fiscal decentralization and the sharing of national resources; increasing technical assistance and capacity-building for subnational governments; and strengthening local governments' access to the instruments enabling them to obtain long-term financing (banking system, financial markets, international grants and loans).

Result

The Final Outcome Document supports subnational governments by recognizing that **“in many countries, responsibilities for revenues, expenditures and investments in sustainable development are being devolved to the subnational level, which often lacks adequate technical and technological capacity, financing and support”**.

The international community further committed itself **“to assist them, including to strengthen capacity, particularly in areas of infrastructure development, local taxation, sectorial finance and debt issuance and management, including access to domestic bond markets.”**

These two statements represent major advances: they pave the way for local implementation of development financing through diverse and complementary strategies and programmes that local governments design and implement.

Global urbanization: a dimension that cannot be disregarded

UCLG very positively welcomed the Addis Ababa Action Agenda adopted at the Conference; it is an essential tool for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

However, UCLG also highlighted the **lack of attention to the challenges and opportunities of rapid global urbanization**. UCLG also warned against **depending excessively on the private sector for infrastructure investments, and of their potential negative effects on social inclusion and environmental protection**. These are two points which UCLG will focus on in its future work.



Local and regional governments will remain mobilized to build broader partnerships for the implementation of an Addis Ababa Action Agenda with the aim of localizing financing for development through the diverse but complementary strategies and programmes they are designing and implementing.

Jacqueline Moustache Belle
UCLG Co-President
Mayor of Victoria (Seychelles),
President of the Association Districts of Victoria

RESILIENCE AGENDA AND THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

The crucial role of Local Authorities in disaster risk reduction recognized for the first time

UCLG assumed the role of facilitator and coordinated the participation of over 500 delegates from local and regional authorities.

The discussions resulted in the “Sendai Framework”, with an explicit consideration of local issues in the management of disaster risk reduction.

For the first time, the outcome document from a global Conference lays the foundation for active cooperation between States and Local Authorities in disaster risk reduction.

SENDAI FRAMEWORK

LOCAL AUTHORITIES, FULL PARTNERS IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



The United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction resulted in an agreement of the international community to intensify its actions.

The Final Document recognizes, for the first time, that Local Authorities have a crucial role to play in disaster risk reduction.

Unlike the Hyogo Framework, the text adopted in Sendai asks States and partners to work with Local Authorities.

In the Sendai Framework, Member States also committed to empower Local Authorities and communities through financial and regulatory means.

The long-standing relationship which unites UCLG and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) led the latter to give UCLG the responsibility of coordinating Local Authorities' participation in the Third Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.

UCLG mobilized its members from various regions of the world to take part in the work for two preparatory meetings (PrepCom) in Geneva.

The UCLG members were involved, in particular, in the regional processes in Africa, Latin America and Asia (respectively, Abuja, Guayaquil and Bangkok). The aim was to implement concerted resilience-building actions at local level.



Cities are the first level of governance dealing with disaster risk reduction. Central governments must develop strategies together with local authorities in order to build their capacities. This can only be done if there are improved local-national dialogues and decentralization processes are undertaken to give the necessary powers and resources to local authorities. This would also help local authorities to better evaluate, monitor and ensure reporting on disaster risks.

Extract from the Official Statement of the Local and Regional Authorities Major Group at the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

LOCAL AUTHORITIES, ON THE FRONT LINE OF DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

Building on its commitment to help Local Authorities to anticipate and deal with disasters, UCLG coordinated the participation of the 500 local and regional authorities registered for the Conference, as well as the leaders that spoke during the Summit, and the organization of the Local Authorities Round Table on 13 March.

In an official address to the plenary session of the Conference, through the Mayor of Banda Aceh, Local Authorities emphasized the central role that they play on a daily basis in reducing the risk of disasters, as they are on the front line.

The outcome document of the Conference, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, recognizes, for the first time, that Local Authorities have a crucial role to play in disaster risk reduction.

Unlike the Hyogo Framework, the text adopted in Sendai asks States and partners to work with Local Authorities. In the Sendai Framework, Member States commit to empower Local Authorities and communities through financial and regulatory means. They also commit to strengthen the capacities of Local Authorities to find alternatives for people living in disaster-prone areas.

In the section on the means and implementation of the Sendai Framework, the **outcome document explicitly gives UCLG the role of being a vehicle for cooperation and learning between Local Authorities, and for the implementation of the Sendai Framework.**

Disaster risk reduction, financing for development, the 2030 Agenda, COP 21, Habitat III... for Local Authorities, everything is connected

At a round table organized as a parallel event to the Conference, representatives of Local Authorities adopted the Sendai Declaration of Local and Subnational Governments.

As well as the need to build technical and institutional capacities for the management of disaster risk reduction, this Declaration emphasizes that everything is connected.

For Local Authorities, it is essential to connect the Sendai Framework for Action with the fight against poverty, the Habitat III Agenda, the fight against climate change and the 2030 Agenda.

Following the Sendai Conference, UCLG and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction decided to create a joint initiative to implement and achieve the actions and targets set in Sendai. **It will be coordinated by the UCLG Taskforce on Local Government Disaster Response, which was created in 2014 under the auspices of the UCLG Committee on Development Cooperation and City Diplomacy.**

MORE INFORMATION 

WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT TOWARDS AN URBAN TRACK

UCLG was approached to contribute to the development of the “urban track” of the World Humanitarian Summit that will take place in Istanbul in May 2016, by including local leaders in the reflections on humanitarian strategies. The UCLG World Secretariat is following the preparations for this Summit, working closely with the **UCLG Taskforce on Local Government Disaster Response**, and participated in the consultations conducted in Barcelona.

THE REFUGEE CRISIS LOCAL AUTHORITIES ON THE FRONT LINE

The humanitarian crisis and the arrival of hundreds of thousands of refugees affected many Local Authorities this year.

This crisis is a matter of direct concern for the European Union, all governments and citizens, as well as local governments.

UCLG and its Sections, in particular in Europe, Africa and the Middle East, welcome the commitment of mayors and their associations, which are volunteering to organize the reception of refugees within their municipalities.

The emergency measures implemented at town, city and municipal levels, such as access to food,



healthcare, housing and sanitation, all help to respond to the human tragedy that the arrival of huge numbers of refugees and people in need presents. These actions contribute to the general spirit of solidarity called for by this exceptional situation.

The experience gained by towns and cities through their reception policies can complement humanitarian measures; however, these towns and cities also require support and coordination with States, the European Union and international institutions.

UCLG supports these initiatives which, through their actions, mark their commitment to the values of solidarity and respect for basic human rights, which are at the heart of our global movement.

UCLG and its Sections called on international institutions, the European Union and its Member States to take into account the aid that local governments are providing to manage this crisis.

With respect to the mobilization of existing specific assistance funds, UCLG called for these funds to be made accessible to those municipalities most directly affected by the mass arrival of asylum seekers in their territories, as well as to those wishing to contribute to the reception of refugees.

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

On the path towards building Local Authorities' cooperation capacities

Local Authorities' involvement in development cooperation goes back decades.

In 2015, UCLG was a central figure in many major meetings, which enabled it to strengthen the position of Local Authorities in relation to donors and international bodies.

Becoming a learning network and strengthening Local Authorities' capacities is at the heart of its strategy.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

CENTRAL FIGURES AT THE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS ON DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

The participation and involvement of Local Authorities in the dialogue with donors and international organizations increased in 2015.

UCLG participated actively in the following meetings: Third Political Forum on Sustainable Development, Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC), the preparatory meetings for the next Development Cooperation Forum.

The work of UCLG helped to achieve greater recognition of the important role that Local Authorities play in development cooperation.

UCLG will support the implementation of European Commission development policies in particular and will work to build the capacities of networks of local and regional associations, in order to respond to their capacity-building requests.

THIRD POLICY FORUM ON DEVELOPMENT: THE MAJOR ROLE OF PARTNERSHIPS AT THE INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS

Over 120 representatives of Member States, European institutions, civil society and local authorities from various world regions came together for the Third Policy Forum on Development in Brussels on 17 and 18 March, to discuss development policies. UCLG Co-President Jacqueline Moustache-Belle opened the Third Forum, urging for governance and partnership at all levels – global, national and regional – to be given prominence within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. She also warned against the lack of clear commitments to support Local Authorities in the communication from the European Commission. She stressed how essential reforms to taxation and local funding to boost investment in infrastructure and basic services are to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and resolving issues linked to poverty.

The concept of creating an “enabling environment” for civil society and Local Authorities was discussed and illustrated with examples at the Forum. The European Commission presented its annual plan for the implementation of the Thematic Programme “Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities” for 2015-2017, with a focus on providing assistance to Local Authorities in 84 partner countries. Reference was made to supporting global networks of Local Authorities, under the Strategic Partnership signed with the European Commission.



HOW TO PLACE THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION (GPEDC) AT THE CENTRE OF THE 2030 AGENDA

Another process which characterized UCLG's action in 2015 was the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC).

In the framework of the follow-up to the post-Busan process (South Korea), UCLG participated in the GPEDC Steering Committee, which met on 3 and 4 September 2015 in Mexico. The GPEDC agenda for the coming period, the processes relating to the upcoming monitoring round and the next High-level Meeting in Kenya (November 2016) were discussed at the meeting.

UCLG Champion for Development Cooperation **Berry Urbanovic** (then UCLG Deputy Treasurer and Mayor of Kitchener, Canada) and the Secretariat of the UCLG Capacity and Institution Building Working Group participated in the meeting on behalf of the organization.

The GPEDC aims to promote behavioural change in development cooperation through monitoring reports. This meeting in Mexico showed that the GPEDC wishes to involve the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and other middle-income countries. The main question raised was how to position the GPEDC at the heart of the SDG agenda. **The importance of localizing the SDGs, raised by UCLG, made it into the conclusions of the session.**

UN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FORUM: DEMONSTRATING THE IMPORTANCE OF BUILDING CAPACITY FROM THE BOTTOM UP

UCLG took part in the preparatory meetings of the 2016 Development Cooperation Forum, which is scheduled to take place on 21 and 22 July 2016 in New York, United States.

The first round of meetings was held in Incheon, South Korea, from 9 to 11 April 2015, bringing together 170 experts and stakeholders. The local and regional governments delegation was led by **Célestine Ketcha-Courtes**, Mayor of Bangangté and UCLG Champion. She argued for the need to fully recognize local governments as development partners with equal status in international development cooperation.

The second series of preparatory meetings took place in the framework of a High-Level Symposium in Kampala, Uganda, from 4 to 5 November 2015. UCLG Champions demonstrated the importance of building capacity from the bottom up, and of participating in the design, implementation and monitoring of national development plans. Participants supported the call for concrete cases to be observed and for data to be gathered at local level, in order to seek practical solutions locally that could be applied to the national and international levels.

More effective development policies through decentralization

Held every two years at the UN Headquarters, the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) gathered cooperation partners and governments around the topic "the future of development cooperation in a post-2015 era".

In this forum, UCLG, advocated for the international community to recognize and support decentralized cooperation as a tool for achieving more effective, responsible and inclusive development policies.

MORE INFORMATION



The UCLG **Committee on Development Cooperation and City Diplomacy** and its Working Group on **Capacity and Institution Building** actively promote the role of local and regional governments as effective mechanisms which can boost development and decentralized cooperation.

The **UCLG Policy Paper on Development Cooperation and Local Government**, which was published in 2013, stresses the need to fully recognize local governments as development partners and to give them a proper role in defining international cooperation and development policies. This document emphasizes the role of local government cooperation as an effective means to build local government capacity.

In this context, a group of **UCLG Champions of Development Cooperation** was set up by the Committee and Working Group aimed at promoting the messages from UCLG's strategic document on development cooperation and local government. This document highlights the importance of local and regional governments being more involved in development cooperation. The Champions are the best ambassadors to promote this cause as they are local elected officials themselves.

The champions are:

Global champions:

Hubert Julien Laferriere,
Vice-President of Greater Lyon, France

Berry Urbanovic, Mayor of Kitchener,
Canada

The regional Champions are:

Alexis Soulama, Mayor of Banfora, Burkina
Faso

Celestine Ketcha, , Mayor of Baganté,
Cameroon

Amiri Nondo, Mayor of Morogoro, Tanzania

Nomveliso Nyukwana, Mayor of Emalahleni,
South Africa

Hugua Hugua, Mayor of Wakatobi,
Indonesia

James Matayoshi, Mayor of Rongelap,
Marshall Islands

Tunç Soyer, Mayor of Seferihisar, Turkey

WORLD WATER FORUM

Sustainable water management, a key issue for Local Authorities

The 7th World Water Forum took place in Daegu, South Korea, from 12 to 17 April 2015.

Within this Forum, UCLG co-organized the 4th International Conference of Local and Regional Authorities.

This cooperation resulted in a joint call for Goal 6 on Water to be included in the final Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

WORLD WATER FORUM

COMMITMENT FROM CITIES AND REGIONS TO SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE WATER MANAGEMENT



UCLG believes that the effective and sustainable management and provision of water to citizens hold the key to eradicating poverty and ensuring sustainable development.

In April 2015, UCLG worked jointly with ICLEI, the World Water Council, UN-Habitat/GWOPA and the Korean authorities to organize the 4th International Conference of Local and Regional Authorities within the 7th World Water Forum.

The Final Ministerial Declaration acknowledges the central role that Local Authorities play in providing safe drinking water and in improving infrastructure for human needs and economic development.

The World Water Forum took place in Daegu, South Korea, from 12 to 17 April 2015. UCLG worked jointly with ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives), the World Water Council, UN-Habitat/GWOPA (Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance) and the Korean authorities to organize the segment for local and regional authorities (the 4th International Conference of Local and Regional Authorities). This cooperation resulted in a joint call for Goal 6 on Water to be included in the final SDGs and for the proposed solutions to be implemented on the ground, with the central actor being the institutional level closest to citizens i.e., with and by local and regional authorities.

UCLG's work to prepare for the World Water Forum focused on mobilizing local and regional elected officials, based on their experience and participation in previous World Water Forums. Ninety five local and regional authorities from 26 countries participated in the Forum.

The Local and Regional Authorities Final Outcome Document entitled "Daegu-Gyeongbuk Water Action for Sustainable Cities and Regions" is a result of:

- Discussions among local leaders
- Calls on national governments to create an enabling environment for local governments to contribute to accelerating the achievement of national policies and globally agreed water-related goals.

It further calls to create a strong institutional environment which allows for decentralization to manage water and sanitation at the level closest to citizens.

The Final Ministerial Declaration of the Forum acknowledges the efforts made by Local Authorities in providing safe drinking water and in improving infrastructure for water for human needs and economic development. It also recognizes the need for coordination mechanisms between national and local levels to be found, through platforms. It further emphasizes the strong link between disaster risk reduction and its impact on managing water services.

MORE INFORMATION



ACCESS TO WATER A FUNDAMENTAL AND INALIENABLE RIGHT

On World Water Day (#WWD2015) and just a few days before the World Water Forum was held in South Korea, UCLG reaffirmed that ensuring access to clean water and sanitation was one of the top priorities of local and regional governments. Universal access to water and sanitation is a key factor in achieving social inclusion, the empowerment of women and combating poverty.

WATER: A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT

On this occasion, conscious of the responsibility and competences of local and regional governments with regard to clean water and sanitation, United Cities and Local Governments reaffirms that water is a fundamental right. Back in 2004, in the Final Declaration of the Founding Congress of UCLG, it was stated that:

“Access to sufficient, good quality water at a reasonable price must be a right for all, and requires both social measures and solidarity mechanisms to protect the least advantaged communities.”

However, over ten years later, the situation is still alarming: billions of people do not have access to clean water and, every year, millions of people die due to health risks linked to a lack of safe water. This situation is unacceptable. All local and regional governments must act to find a solution.

WATER: AT THE HEART OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Water resources and services help to reduce poverty, boost economic growth and enhance environmental sustainability. Whether in the area of food security or energy, human health or the environment, **water contributes to improving social well-being and overall growth**, and it has an impact on the livelihoods of billions of people.

7TH WORLD WATER FORUM

12-17 April 2015. Daegu-Gyeongju, Republic of Korea #wwaterforum7

"Access to good quality water and sanitation is a basic right for all human beings and plays an essential role in life and livelihoods, the preservation of the health of the population and the fight against poverty"

Istanbul Water Consensus for Local and Regional Authorities

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HOWEVER...



1 IN 10 OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION
DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO
SAFE WATER



1 IN 3 OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION
DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO
ADEQUATE SANITATION



Basic services, in particular water and sanitation, are essential not only for the preservation of human life and dignity, but also in driving economic growth and ensuring social equity.

Extract from the foreword to the Third Global Report on Decentralization and Local Democracy – GOLD III: Basic Services for All in an Urbanizing World

SIGNATURE OF A HISTORIC STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION



On 28 January 2015, the European Commission and UCLG signed a groundbreaking partnership agreement.

This strategic partnership – through which the EU recognizes UCLG as the unique generalist Organization that represents Local Authorities – marks an important step in the consideration of local issues by the international community.

It will allow UCLG to strengthen its action in the interests of Local Authorities worldwide according to its four strategic priorities. For the EU, it provides concrete support for implementing its Agenda for Change and empowering Local Authorities.

A STRATEGIC EU-UCLG PARTNERSHIP TO ENHANCE THE ACTION AND VISIBILITY OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Following the structured dialogue held with the Commission over the past few years and the publication of the Communication from the Commission on empowering local authorities in 2013, UCLG was recognized as the key representative institution for Local Authorities.

Discussions were conducted throughout 2014. They culminated in the signature, on 28 January 2015, of a Strategic Partnership between the two institutions aimed at supporting UCLG's work in the coming years.

As a key player and responsible for implementing European Union policy in the area of development and cooperation, the European Commission adopted an Agenda for Change in 2012. It recognizes civil society

organizations and local authorities as crucial development actors. They have their own right to lay the foundations for democratic ownership, from the bottom up, of development policies and processes, and also to ensure inclusive and sustainable growth.

In order to provide the framework for the participation of civil society organizations and local authorities in countries' development processes, the Commission adopted two Communications:

- The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations
- Empowering Local Authorities in partner countries for enhanced governance and more effective development outcomes

In order to unlock the development potential of local authorities and their associations in partner countries and enable them to respond to citizens' demands, four strategic priorities were defined within the European Union support framework: (i) support for ongoing decentralization processes; (ii) local authorities' development capacity; (iii) sustainable urbanization; and (iv) the strengthening of associations of local authorities at national, continental and international level.

UCLG recognized as the unique generalist world Organization representing Local Authorities at international level

Following the intensive dialogue between the European Commission and other active networks of local governments at global and European level, the Commission proposed to develop a Strategic Partnership with UCLG and UCLGA (UCLG Africa) in the form of an operating grant. It is intended to support the current operating activities of the World Organization and its Section.

The Commission also agreed to implement the operating grants for specific activities carried out by the Europe Section and PLATFORMA, as well as for the International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF), which is an associate member of UCLG and CLGF, an active member of the Global Taskforce.

This Strategic Partnership Agreement is intended to strengthen the network and contribute to its sustainability. It aims to support UCLG's transformation, in order to enable it to serve members with changing needs. Last but not least, the partnership seeks to promote cooperation among local governments and foster the development of a stronger learning agenda in UCLG. It will also study how to

improve coordination between the associations which operate on different levels (national, regional and global), as well as the promotion of dialogue on policies among the various development stakeholders.

The aim of this Partnership is also to encourage closer coordination between the aforementioned organizations and to enable more harmonized global advocacy work.

BUILDING UCLG'S INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY AND INCREASING ITS VISIBILITY IN THE INTERNATIONAL AGENDA

The partnership with the EU enables UCLG to build its institutional capacity and to increase its visibility in the international agenda. It also provides support for its work in line with its strategic objectives:

- Promoting representation and advocacy;
- Providing intelligence;
- Strengthening the network, leadership and governance;
- Fostering cooperation and learning.

The 2015 work programme, which was adopted by the UCLG World Council and organized around these areas of work, was fully integrated into the agreement with the European Commission.



By strengthening the structure and capacity of local authorities, as well as their capacity to influence the interests and practices of national governments, we can make a real difference in development.

Neven Mimica

European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development



The agreement will strengthen the network and contribute to its sustainability. It will support our transformation and enable us to serve members with changing needs. This will be the most challenging part, and all of us must play a role. It is our conviction that we will be able to build stronger political networks which are resilient, more inclusive and with an even wider reach. Last but not least, the partnership will promote cooperation among local governments and foster the development of a stronger learning agenda in UCLG.

Kadir Topbaş

UCLG President

2.

INTELLIGENCE

Conducting research of use to Local and Regional Authorities

Reporting on the situation and evolution of Local Authorities across the world

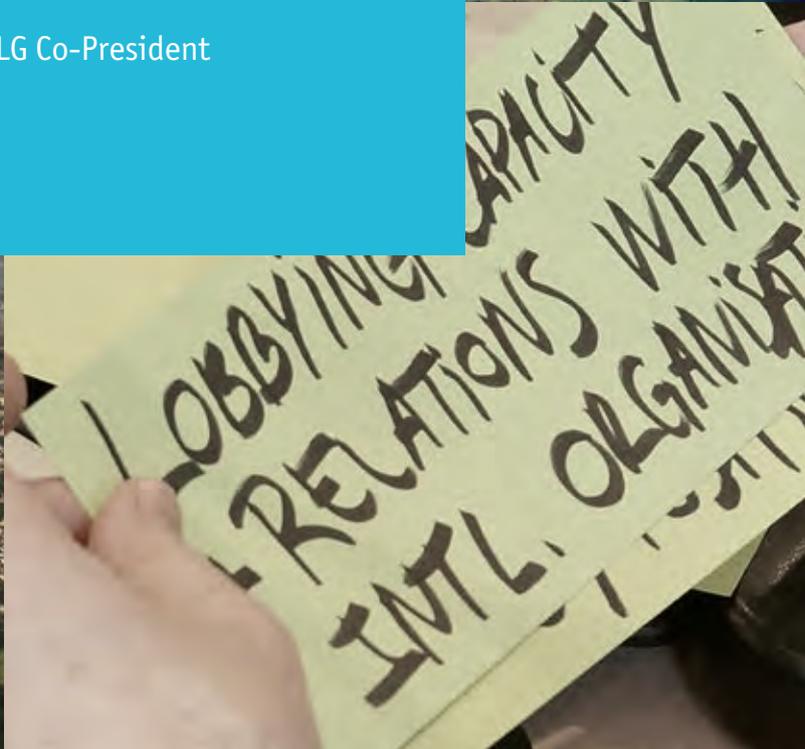
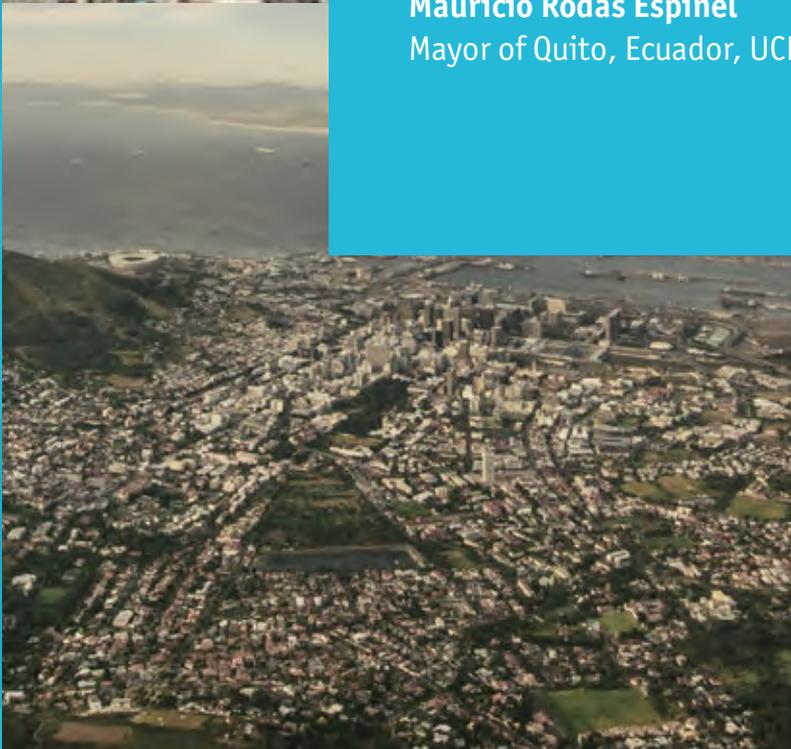
Providing expertise to support the advocacy work of local and regional authorities with international organizations



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We know that we cannot just be a reactive force, responding to the priorities and calendar of the international community. We must also attempt to set the global agenda ourselves by bringing the priorities of local and regional governments to the table.

Mauricio Rodas Espinel
Mayor of Quito, Ecuador, UCLG Co-President



GLOBAL AGENDA OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

The vision and aspirations of local and regional authorities developed in a participatory manner

A major input by UCLG to the work of the Global Taskforce, the Global Agenda of Local and Regional Governments for the 21st Century will serve as a basis for the discussions and recommendations for the Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments.

In order to support this process, UCLG will publish the fourth Global Report on Local Democracy and Decentralization (GOLD IV) in October 2016.

In order to directly involve its members in the creation of the Global Agenda, UCLG is building it “from the bottom up” through an open, participatory debate among its members and partners.

Through the Global Agenda of Local and Regional Governments, UCLG makes the voice of all types of cities and territories – whether small or large, urban or rural – heard.

THE GLOBAL AGENDA OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

A PARTICIPATORY PROCESS CONTRIBUTING TO THE DRAFTING OF THE GOLD IV REPORT



Since 2013, UCLG has been working with its members and partners to develop a Global Agenda which will be one of UCLG's main contributions to the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments and will support its preparations for the Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments during Habitat III.

Developed in a participatory way, it takes into consideration a series of consultations organized with intermediary, metropolitan and peripheral cities and territories (regions, rural areas and small municipalities).

This constituency-based approach allowed an integrated vision of development that is more in line with the realities of local authorities' experiences on the ground than any sectorial approach.



In 2013, UCLG decided to develop a Global Agenda of Local and Regional Governments for the 21st Century. Providing a major input to the Global Taskforce, it will support UCLG’s preparations for the Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments during Habitat III. The Global Agenda should be ready by Habitat III and will be presented in 2016 at the Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments in Quito.

In order to support this process, UCLG will publish the fourth Global Report on Local Democracy and Decentralization (GOLD IV). GOLD IV will provide data, case studies and analysis to underpin the Global Agenda. It will be presented at the 5th UCLG World Congress in Bogota.

THIS PROCESS CONTRIBUTES TO THREE OF UCLG’S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES:

Expertise

Through the Global Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralization (GOLD), the intention is to “provide intelligence” to support UCLG members’ contributions to development policies and the various global agendas.

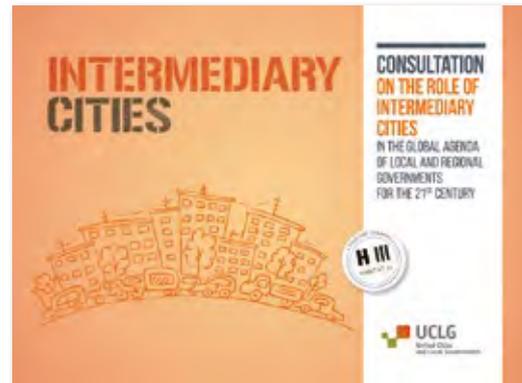
Advocacy

By developing its own agenda, UCLG also contributes to its objective on international relations and advocacy. This means that the organization is able to identify and express its own priorities and concerns. It also demonstrates its ability to respond and to participate in international processes and debates.

Network

UCLG develops its own Global Agenda from the bottom up, through an open, participatory debate between its members and partners and, by doing so, contributes to another of its strategic objectives, namely “Strengthening the Network, Leadership and Governance”.

Consultation on the role of intermediary cities



The main debates addressed the importance of the intermediary scale, which has unique development challenges and opportunities. They also stressed the “human scale” of intermediary cities and the need to reposition intermediary cities in the national and global economy. The main political messages focused on raising their status and profile both nationally and internationally.

GLOBAL CONSULTATIONS WITH MEMBERS

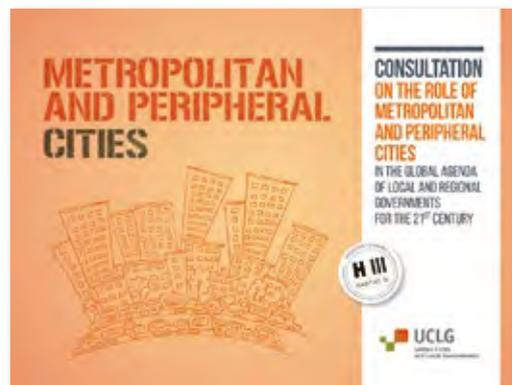
Due to their wide diversity, the members of UCLG face very varied challenges relating to the issue of sustainable development. Therefore, UCLG decided to hold a series of consultations to examine the contributions of different kinds of Local Authorities to the Global Agenda:

- Intermediary cities: 23-24 March 2015
- Metropolitan and peripheral cities: 30-31 March 2015
- Territories (regions, rural areas and small municipalities): 3-4 July 2015

The consultations aimed, in particular, to identify issues that are of shared interest to Local Authorities, civil society and other stakeholders, in order to form alliances in preparation for the Habitat III negotiations. The consultations with intermediary, metropolitan and peripheral cities were attended by over 70 participants, including elected officials and Local Authority stakeholders from 37 cities across every continent, as well as experts and researchers, and representatives of civil society, international institutions and the private sector.



Consultations on the role of metropolitan and peripheral cities



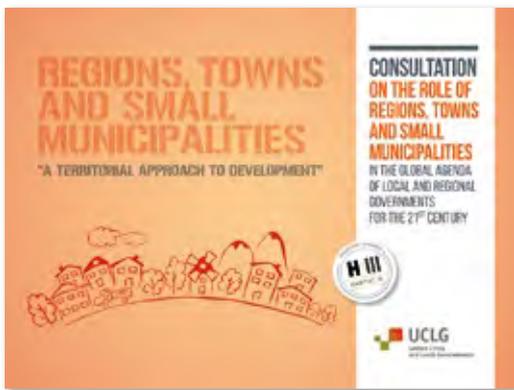
These consultations covered a range of areas, including the governance of metropolitan areas, the right to the city, participatory democracy, strategic regional planning and tackling inequalities. A strong political message that emerged from the sessions was the need to build integrated and cohesive metropolitan areas based on multi-polarity and the “right to the centre”, that is, the right to equal treatment for all cities that are part of a metropolitan area. Another important debate took place on how to reconcile competitiveness and social inclusion.

By means of the Global Agenda of Local and Regional Governments, UCLG was able to achieve several objectives:

- Contribute to the development of content by the Global Taskforce which will foster discussion at the Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments (Quito, 2016).
- Ensure that the voice of Local Authorities from all kinds of cities and territories – whether small or large, urban or rural – is heard at Habitat III

The reports on the consultations have now been published. They seek not only to open up the debates which took place in March to a wider audience, but also to invite Local Authorities and UCLG’s partners to make their own contributions. By publishing these reports, UCLG demonstrates its commitment to facilitating an open global dialogue on the role of local and regional authorities in sustainable development.

Consultation on the role of regions, towns and small municipalities



Without losing sight of the importance of strong and constructive rural-urban linkages and the need for integrated territorial development that is regionally-balanced, this meeting addressed a wide range of issues and challenges, including equitable and inclusive economic growth with empowered citizenry; networks of self-sufficient regional governments within a framework of multi-level governance; redistribution, equalization and subsidiarity within a decentralization-enabling framework; long-term planning to ensure territorially-balanced and

integrated sustainable development; territorial regeneration and multi-level governance built on rural-urban linkages; the potential of the human scale, participation, endogenous development; and co-responsibility for small municipalities.



MORE INFORMATION

GOLD: THE GLOBAL OBSERVATORY ON LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND DECENTRALIZATION

REPORTING ON THE STATE OF DECENTRALIZATION, AUTONOMY AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE AROUND THE WORLD

One of UCLG's goals is to become the global source of key information on the situation and evolution of Local Authorities worldwide, through the establishment of an observatory on local democracy (GOLD). The UCLG Committee on Decentralization and Local Self-Government has supported the Observatory's activities since its creation.

GOLD is responsible for:

- UCLG's triennial Global Report on Decentralization and Local Democracy.
- A website (www.gold.uclg.org) providing access to extensive information and data.

GOLD

Global Observatory
on Local Democracy
and Decentralization

Based on work by leading researchers, the GOLD report has become the international reference report on decentralization. Each report includes policy recommendations for Local Authorities, which were part of consultations during the research related to the project.

UCLG is currently working on the fourth GOLD report, which will serve as a basis for the Global Agenda of Local and Regional Governments in preparation for Habitat III (Quito, October 2016).

The previous reports contributed to the debate on the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and to the 2030 development agenda:

- GOLD Report I: Decentralization and Local Democracy in the World
- GOLD Report II: Local Government Finance: The Challenges of the 21st Century
- GOLD Report III: Basic Services for All in an Urbanizing World

The GOLD report currently receives support from international institutions, including Cities Alliance, the World Bank Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility, as well as from regional partners, such as the Government of Catalonia and the Barcelona Provincial Council, and from national authorities, such as the French Development Agency.

3.

STRENGTHENING THE NETWORK AND COOPERATION AMONG LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Sharing knowledge and good practices to
strengthen the role of Local Authorities

Enabling each Local Authority to enhance
the capacities of its own city or region

Designing and promoting concrete local
solutions to concrete global issues



“

Local Authorities are faced with their citizens' expectations every day. Therefore, they are now the best guarantor of public interest.

Facilitating the sharing of good practices at local level is therefore, without a doubt, the most direct path towards a more human world.

Ilsur Metshin
UCLG Co-President
Mayor of Kazan, Russian Federation



UCLG NETWORK

A new online platform to encourage exchanges among Local Authorities

Working in networks is key to raising the voice of Local Authorities and preparing for future major international meetings.

In 2015, UCLG launched new communication formats with the aim of encouraging exchanges among its members. These new formats include the UCLG Network.

The aim of this new online platform is to become an essential communication tool to connect all Local Authorities, consult them and enable them to exchange with each other in real time, without having to travel.

COMMUNICATION AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

UCLG's legitimacy is derived from the action that it carries out throughout the world and from the support of its members and Sections. In 2015, the organization enhanced its internal and external communication.

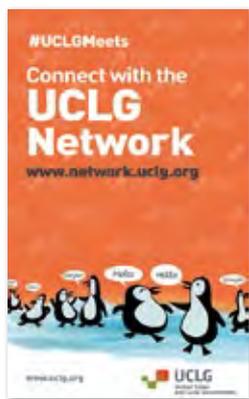
A reference website, an increasing presence on social networks and the enhancing of network communication are the highlights for communication in 2015.

A summary of the communication activities carried out in 2015 can be found below; these activities were aimed at boosting the presence of UCLG and its Sections at global level and giving its community of members the chance to engage with UCLG and be involved in its work.

- Launch of a **new online platform** (UCLG Network), in collaboration with external communication consultants, with the aim of enabling horizontal communication in real time among the World Secretariat, Regional Sections, Committees, Working Groups and our most active members. This platform enables **more dynamic communication** between members and Sections, with more updates and information exchange.
- Expansion of UCLG's social network as a platform for exchange and advocacy (Twitter, Facebook).
- Strengthened partnerships with **influential blogs** which address subjects of relevance to UCLG members (El País, Citiscope, Meeting of Minds).
- Development of a communication plan for the 2016 Summit of Local and Regional Leaders in Bogotá, the **5th UCLG World Congress**.
- **Specific publications** produced during key events on the international agenda (The SDGs: what local governments need to know", "Our Post-2015 Journey: Local and Regional Governments on the World Stage", and three consultation reports on intermediary cities, metropolitan areas and territories).
- Regular telephone briefings were organized before major events, in order to give the Secretariats of the Sections and Committees the opportunity to request specific information, to prepare for the meetings and the contributions for their political delegations.

ENCOURAGING NETWORK COMMUNICATION

UCLG has been steadily developing new communication tools, in order to strengthen networking among Local Authorities and to spread the information that it has gathered.



The new online platform, the “UCLG Network”, was launched in October 2015 to enhance horizontal communication in real time and cooperation across the Organization.

Sharing experiences and good practices, collaborative work, exchanging views... Launched in 2015, the UCLG Network has quickly become an essential tool for its users. It also offers the significant secondary benefit of increasing UCLG members’ sense of ownership and ensuring the sustainability of its network over the coming years.

The use of the UCLG Network platform will be expanded gradually. Initially, a decision was made to work with a pilot group of 300 active users from Regional Sections, Committees and Working Groups. In the longer term, the platform will allow common initiatives to be launched and will also be used to consult members, particularly with a view to the UCLG World Congress in Bogota in 2016. Content from the Congress will be added to it.

In line with UCLG’s aim to strengthen the links between its different areas of work and to improve the dissemination of its knowledge across and beyond its network, the World Secretariat team was reorganized and strengthened. It now includes cross-cutting roles which form connections between specific areas and the facilitation of the UCLG Network.

The World Summit in Bogotá, a key structure for speaking with a strong voice at Habitat III

The collaborative platform, set up by UCLG, was designed primarily as a tool for exchanging information and ideas with members on the major topics to be discussed in Bogotá during the World Summit.

The official website for the Congress, which the World Secretariat developed together with the city of Bogotá, was launched on 12 October: www.bogota2016.uclg.org. The site, which is updated regularly, is the key reference where participants will be able to access information relating to the Congress.



Two promotional videos were created and shared online and on social networks; they were also shown at a range of events attended by UCLG.

“Save the date” flyers, banners and roll ups were produced in different languages (English, French, Spanish, Russian, Turkish, Portuguese and Italian to date) and made available online and at UCLG events.

SOCIAL NETWORKS AND WEBSITES

Twitter 

NUMBER OF FOLLOWERS



↑ INCREASE OF **3,123 followers**

BY COUNTRY

United States 765	9%	Mexico 292	3%
Spain 542	6%	Canada 290	3%
United Kingdom 522	6%	Turkey 212	2%
France 391	4%	Belgium 188	2%

Facebook 

FANS



↑ INCREASE OF **854 fans**

BY COUNTRY

Morocco 203	United States 151
Mexico 201	Argentina 110
Spain 189	Colombia 103
Brazil 183	Italy 85
France 176	Canada 70

www.uclg.org 

NUMBER OF VISITS



NUMBER OF USERS



BY LANGUAGE



BY COUNTRY

Spain 13.43 %	Brazil 3.43 %
United States 9.41 %	United Kingdom 2.96 %
France 8.83 %	Canada 2.89 %
Mexico 4.26 %	Turkey 2.63 %
Colombia 3.48 %	Belgium 2.61 %

www.gtf2016.org

NUMBER OF VISITS



NUMBER OF USERS



www.urbansdg.uclg.org

NUMBER OF VISITS



NUMBER OF USERS



PUBLICATIONS

New communication formats in order to enhance knowledge-sharing

In 2015, in addition to the launch of the UCLG Network, the UCLG World Secretariat tested new communication formats for sharing knowledge across the Organization's network:

- Illustrated reports on the Global Agenda consultations
- Booklets containing advocacy messages for key events, such as the Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July 2015, and the second session of the Preparatory Committee of Habitat III (PrepCom2) in Nairobi, Kenya, from 14 to 16 April 2015.

Regular telephone briefings with Sections and Committees were also organized to optimize the exchange of information before major events.

1. Institutional



Who are we?



Annual report 2014

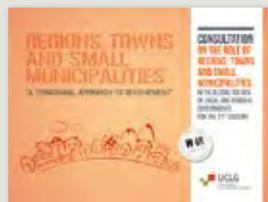


Join the UCLG network

2. Global Agenda and Global Taskforce



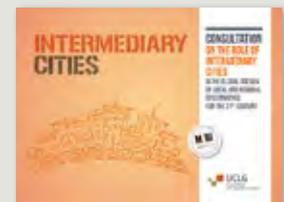
Building an agenda
UCLG Strategic toolkit



Consultation on the role of
regions, towns and small
municipalities in the Global
Agenda of Local and Regional
Governments



Consultation on the role of
metropolitan and peripheral
cities in the Global Agenda
of Local and Regional
Governments



Consultation on the role of
intermediary cities in the
Global Agenda of Local and
Regional Governments



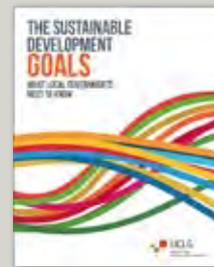
Local and regional voices on the global stage
Our post-2015 journey



Shaping the New Urban Agenda: Towards the Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Authorities



Financing local and regional governments



The SDGs: what Local Governments need to know

It should be noted that the publication **The SDGs: what local governments need to know**, was well-received by member networks and Local Authorities.

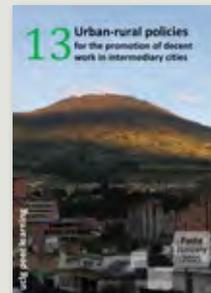
3. Committees and Working Groups



Strengthening Local Economic Development through Urban-Rural Policies



Public Space and Citizenship



Urban-rural policies for the promotion of decent work in intermediary cities



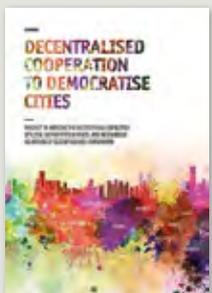
Exchange of experiences on the local economy



Public Space as a generator of growth in African Cities



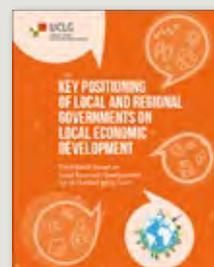
Culture 21: Actions



Decentralised cooperation to democratise cities



Culture and sustainable cities



Key Positioning of Local and Regional Governments on Local Economic Development



The role of local governments in promoting gender equality for sustainability

FIRST RETREAT AND CAMPUS

New mechanisms for cooperation between Local Authorities and the Governing Bodies of UCLG to strengthen the network dynamic

In February 2015, UCLG organized its first Retreat and Campus in Barcelona, home to the World Secretariat.

The relationships between the different Governing Bodies of the Organization, their links with the members and the means with which to strengthen them were the focus of the work.

Outcomes: cooperation will be further strengthened, the UCLG Retreat and Campus will be held every year and a Strategic Toolkit aimed at enhancing work as a network was specially designed for members.

RETREAT AND CAMPUS 2015

A FIRST MEETING WHICH WILL BE BECOME AN ANNUAL EVENT



The first UCLG Retreat and Campus took place in Barcelona in February 2015 and brought together the Governing Bodies of the Organization.

It identified concrete actions and synergies, which will help to enhance cooperation, particularly between the World Secretariat and the Regional Sections of UCLG.

The UCLG Committees and Working Groups also identified a series of strategic topics for Habitat III.

At the end of this first Retreat and Campus, members expressed their satisfaction and their interest in institutionalizing it, with a view to making it an annual meeting.

One of UCLG's strategic priorities for 2010-2016 is to strengthen its network. In particular, it needs to seek new ways for further expansion. The report of the Secretary General in Haikou explicitly mentioned that the Organization's resilience would need to be based on a stronger and more diversified membership. It must also adapt to new contexts and seek greater involvement of political leaders.

The first UCLG Retreat and Campus **took place from 9 to 13 February 2015 in Barcelona**, home to the World Secretariat. It gathered together representatives of the UCLG Sections and Committees, as well as of international agencies, partners from the private sector and civil society organizations.

COLLABORATIVE WORKING SESSIONS AMONG UCLG SECTIONS AND THE WORLD SECRETARIAT

During the Retreat, collaborative working sessions involving the UCLG World Secretariat and Regional Sections helped to identify key ways to strengthen the Sections:

- **Increasing and consolidating membership.** Discussions showed to what extent the reality of the membership is constantly changing. Faced with this challenge, the Sections are tasked with showing their members the added value that they can obtain by participating in the UCLG network.

- **Finding a balance between the advocacy role and service provision with direct added value for the members.** Using a united voice to address the international community is an important added value of UCLG. It has a great impact on the reality of the Organization’s members.
- **Fostering direct cooperation among members, knowledge-sharing and the development of collaboration tools.** To this end, the decision was made to create the UCLG Network online platform. Discussions also showed that not all

members may be prepared or active enough for international advocacy. In this regard, UCLG can provide a clear advantage.

- **Ensuring continued political involvement and leadership.** Other needs were identified during the Retreat, namely the need to develop the capacity to know what local political leaders expect, to work on providing greater political visibility to members and to improve the quality of peer networking opportunities.

A strategic toolkit to help Local Authorities to work as a global network

How can local and regional governments work as a global network? This question was the main theme of the first UCLG Retreat and Campus.

“Knowledge is about remembering, and innovation is about forgetting”. This statement, made by UCLG Secretary General, Josep Roig, captures the spirit of innovation in which the first version of the Strategic Toolkit was presented and discussed during the meetings. The purpose of the Toolkit is to explain, in depth, the UCLG network’s strategic framework and how to put it into practice, in order to support the UCLG members and partners that wish to contribute to the agenda.

Leaving behind over-used methodologies, and with the intention to innovate in order to adapt to a networked society, this Toolkit was created following a long exercise of consultations and collaborative working sessions.

The Strategic Toolkit is, in short, a guide for collaborative work, and it raises the following question: **“How can Local Authorities work as a global network?”** The set of tools contained in the document provide the UCLG network with guidelines to define and share the knowledge and experience of its members with the rest of the network in an easy and didactic way.

Josep Roig: **“We want to create a dynamic and active global action network of committed local leaders who work in partnership with one another and with other stakeholders to improve and implement the agenda of local governments over the next 10 years. We believe that this global action network only makes sense with a networked system of leadership, and we want you to be a leader of this network in your region and/or policy field”.**



The strategic toolkit is available in English on the UCLG website.



ENCOURAGING COOPERATION AMONG THE UCLG SECTIONS, COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

Planning sessions were also held with the UCLG Committees and Working Groups during the Retreat, and they identified the following key points:

- **The resolve to ensure greater cooperation between Sections and Committees.** The aim is to provide member Local Authorities with even more and better services, and greater synergies with the other parts of the UCLG network.
- **The need to organize thematic activities around the eight topics identified as key areas of UCLG's work for Habitat III:**
 1. Urban and territorial governance
 2. Financing urbanization
 3. Local economic development
 4. Urban planning
 5. Inclusive cities and territories
 6. Environmental sustainability
 7. Culture
 8. Role of local governments in development and decentralized cooperation

Specific bilateral follow-up were conducted with Sections to inform them about the conclusions of the Retreat and the actions mentioned. Cooperation with key Committees was strengthened with the aim of ensuring that across the whole network activities were mutually enriched.

ASSESSING THE SITUATIONS AND NEEDS OF MEMBER LOCAL AUTHORITIES: THE SUPPORT GROUP ON MISSION AROUND THE WORLD

In 2014, a Support Group (originally called the Group of Wise Persons), mandated by the Executive Bureau, was set up to meet UCLG members and assess the situations and needs in different parts of the Organization.

The Treasurer, the Deputy Treasurer, the Honorary Auditor and Richard Kemp, Councillor for Liverpool and Deputy Chair of the European and International Board of the United Kingdom's Local Government Association, agreed to participate.

A plan of action was adopted at the 2014 World Council in Haikou, China, where several bilateral meetings were held with the Sections. Follow-up missions took place in 2015:

- **Washington, United States:** A delegation led by Richard Kemp and Berry Vrbanovic, Mayor of Kitchener, Canada, and UCLG Deputy Treasurer, travelled to Washington on the occasion of the winter meetings of the US Conference of Mayors in January 2015. Meetings also took place with the leadership of the National League of Cities.
- **Doha, Qatar:** a delegation led by the Mayor of Rabat attended the Executive Bureau of the Arab Towns Organization in Doha.
- **Porto Alegre, Brazil:** a Pan-Latin American meeting took place in Porto Alegre, on the occasion of the UCLG Executive Bureau in June.
- **Kazan, Russia:** Cllr Richard Kemp visited Kazan during the Eurasia Local Governments Congress in July.

PEER LEARNING

South-South cooperation and the migration crisis: exchanges among Local Authorities key to the solution

UCLG values the exchange of learning and good practices among Local Authorities from different countries. Our goal: to enable each Local Authority to enhance the capacities of its own city or region.

Our members' practical experience is vital to the achievement of the goals set by the international community in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The UCLG Learning Agenda offers a space to test new ideas and methodologies and develop learning spheres and communities of practice to address the specific interests of our members.

PROGRAMMES BRINGING LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND ASSOCIATIONS TOGETHER

LEARNING AND EXCHANGING THROUGH ACTION

Peer learning is an essential strategic area of work for UCLG. It is aimed at providing concrete tools to improve the management and planning of local urban development.

Good governance, sustainability, participation to extend the right to the city to the local population are part of the perspectives.

A highlight of 2015 was the consolidation of a learning exchange programme between Local Authorities in Mozambique and Brazil.

As a result of its success, UCLG was invited to share its experience at the International Labour Organization (ILO) Development Cooperation Academy.

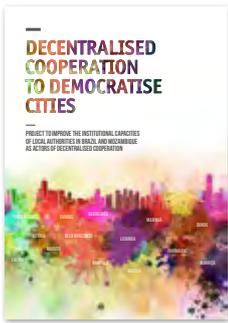
From 25 February to 7 March 2015, a delegation of elected officials and technicians from various Brazilian cities and institutions travelled to Mozambique, in order to carry out technical missions and take part in the workshop to review the project to improve the capacities of Local Authorities in Brazil and Mozambique.

This seminar focused on the themes of cadastres, urban planning and participatory budgeting. It gathered six mayors from Mozambique and technicians from all Mozambican cities participating in the project, as well as representatives from the cities of Mzuzu, Lilongwe, Blantyre and Durban's Municipal Institute of Learning (MILE), which are active members of the UCLG Urban Strategic Planning Committee. The event was also an opportunity to bring together ministries and relevant institutions, such as the European Union, GIZ, the Catalan Cooperation Agency, the Galician Fund for Cooperation and Solidarity, UCLG Africa and other actors working for development in Mozambique.



ENCOURAGING NEW DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION INITIATIVES

On 11 and 12 May, an Executive Meeting of the Coordination Board of the cooperation project between municipalities in Brazil and Mozambique was held at the UCLG World Secretariat in Barcelona. It allowed partner institutions to evaluate the project, with the aim of discussing the next steps to be taken and defining the way ahead after the first phase. The partner institutions had the opportunity to share their ideas for new projects and related initiatives. The intention is to continue to support the cooperation between the different cities and to encourage new decentralized cooperation initiatives.

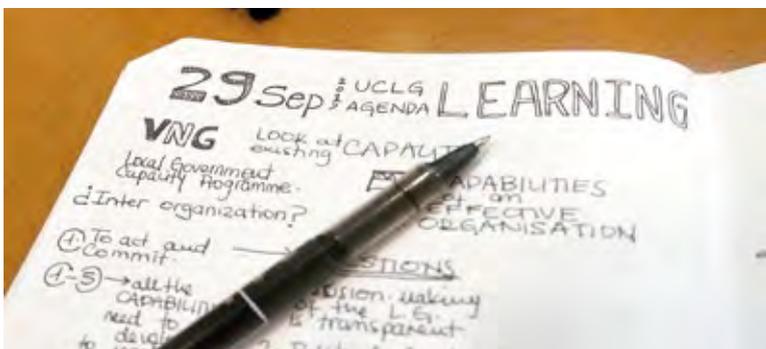


This project was the subject of an exhibition presented in Porto Alegre and a publication which summarizes its context and results. It is available for consultation on the UCLG website.

A delegation of Mozambican and Brazilian mayors, technicians and representatives of the National Association of Municipalities of Mozambique (ANAMM) and the National Association of Mayors of Brazil (FNP)

attended the UCLG Executive Bureau meetings in June 2015. They contributed to debates on the global agenda, providing inputs based on the challenges that they currently face and their practices. Representatives from the European Commission in Brazil and the Brazilian Ministry of Cities also participated in the round table on cooperation and learning towards the New Urban Agenda. They highlighted the methodology, governance and political impact of this cooperation.

THE INVOLVEMENT OF CITIES IN COOPERATION ACTIVITIES “INCREASINGLY RELEVANT” FOR THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANIZATION



On 21 April, the International Labour Organization (ILO) invited UCLG to jointly strategize on South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) with 80 members of ILO staff. The framework for these exchanges was the ILO Development Cooperation Academy in Turin. The sessions, which were inspired by the World Café methodology, facilitated the sharing of experiences. Many opportunities were identified for future South-South and Triangular Cooperation modalities.

National ILO offices recognized the increasing relevance of involving cities in cooperation activities. UCLG emphasized the role of Local Authorities in creating jobs, encouraging local economic development, defending the principles of decent work and addressing emerging topics, such as the informal economy.

The 2016 learning agenda designed collectively

The UCLG World Secretariat invited a number of its members and partners active in the cooperation field to meet on 29 and 30 September to take part in a workshop to discuss the new UCLG learning agenda for 2016. The aim was to respond to calls made during the Retreat to ensure an open and transparent process. This workshop served to:

- Discuss the criteria that UCLG should adopt in order to identify and implement strategic learning activities for its members.
- Encourage Southern members to take a leading role in concrete activities.

These sessions were organized back-to-back with the annual meeting of the UCLG Capacity and Institution Building Working Group (CIB) in the Hague on 1 and 2 October. The results and conclusions were set out in a document entitled “Defining and building on decentralized and South-South city-to-city cooperation”.

UCLG'S STRATEGIC MANDATE IS TO SUPPORT THE LEARNING OF ITS MEMBERS AND TO PROMOTE PEER-TO-PEER EXCHANGE AS A MEANS FOR MUTUAL LEARNING

THE UCLG LEARNING FORUM: SHAPING THE AGENDA

The Second **UCLG Learning Forum** took place from 29 to 30 September 2015 in Barcelona, Spain. Participants came together to define the key criteria that would guide new initiatives. The Forum reiterated the need to reinforce the learning agenda by **promoting decentralized cooperation, peer-to-peer ties, communities of practice and networks.**



BUILDING ON THE ACHIEVEMENTS IN AFRICA

With many African cities very actively involved in building the learning agenda, the Africities 2015 Summit (29 November – 3 December) was an opportunity to remember the important impact that peer-to-peer learning has had on policies to date. A session dedicated to sharing members' activities was attended by

experienced actors, such as the Swedish International Institute for Local Governance, the South African cities network and UCLG, as well as the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) and the International Agency of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG), among others. **They all committed to encourage the broader outreach of peer learning. The Southern members that have adopted this process are supporting UCLG by promoting this approach in the hope of inspiring other regions, such as South-East Asia.**

FOSTERING COOPERATION AND LEARNING: PEER LEARNING EVENTS

Peer-to-peer learning events enhance knowledge transfer based on sharing experiences between participants built on trust and equality. In line with these principles, the Committee on Urban Strategic Planning and the Working Group on Local Economic Development, together with the cities of Blantyre, Malawi, and Negombo, Sri Lanka, co-organized two peer learning events in December 2015.

In Blantyre, since 2014, peer learning has been built on the commitment of the Urban Strategic Planning Committee, in partnership with the International Union of Architects and UN-Habitat. Learning sessions help to inform local policy and promote global advocacy on public space.

A request from UCLG ASPAC to implement an agenda for localizing SDGs and for measures to be taken in order to shape a learning agenda for Asian members led to the learning workshop in Negombo. The event focused on SDG 8 (creating employment and local economic development) in partnership with the International Labour Organization.

FACILITATING THE EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES TO RESPOND TO THE MIGRATION CRISIS

Cities play a significant role in facilitating the inclusion of migrants. They can create an environment to encourage them to contribute to cultural and economic urban life. Some cities with a long migration history have extensive experience in integrating immigrants, while for other cities migration is a new issue. Several policy areas are concerned, such as housing, healthcare, education, community participation, urban planning and employment.

A 3-YEAR PLAN

UCLG is a partner of the “Mediterranean City-to-City Migration Profiles and Dialogue” project, which was launched and led by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), and co-financed by the European Commission, with the involvement of UN-Habitat and UNHCR.

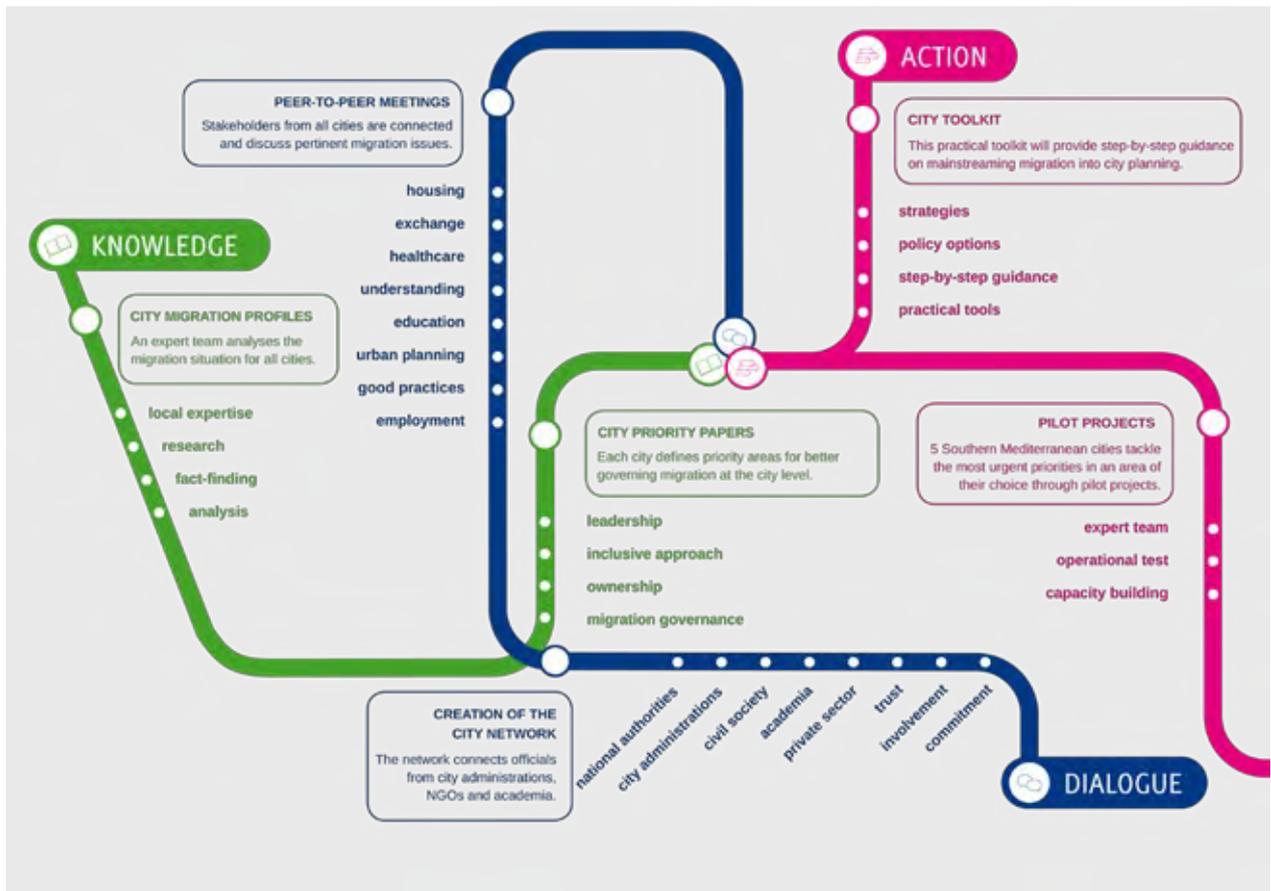
The main objective of this project is to promote the integration of migrants in cities in the southern Mediterranean region, with a focus on access to human rights. Launched in February 2015, it is expected to run for three years, with the initial phase dedicated to building the network.

IMPROVING LOCAL PUBLIC POLICIES ON THE INCLUSION OF MIGRANTS

In this framework, UCLG’s mission consists of creating and facilitating a network of ten cities, 5 of which are European and 5 southern Mediterranean. By doing so, it provides its expertise and methodological knowledge for peer learning activities.

In addition, UCLG is contributing to the definition and drafting of policy recommendations to improve local public policies on the integration and inclusion of migrants. It has also taken on the task of promoting, at national and international level, the role of Local Authorities in managing migratory effects.





“Mediterranean City-to-City Migration Profiles and Dialogue” project

THE FIRST UCLG CULTURE SUMMIT IN BILBAO

Representatives of more than fifty cities from every continent came together in Bilbao from 18-20 March for the first ever United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) Culture Summit. Over the three days of this landmark event, local leaders and stakeholders demonstrated how they are taking the lead in recognizing, not just the potential of culture, but that it is absolutely essential for sustainable development.

The UCLG Culture Summit was held at a decisive moment in the international negotiations on the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda, which will be ratified in September 2015 by UN Member States. It provided a platform for local and national governments, civil society organizations, and international organizations, such as UNESCO, to assess the current position of culture in the development agenda and to share experiences and innovations from cities across the world.

Mayors, councillors and cultural practitioners at the Summit warned that the Post-2015 Agenda risks being rendered irrelevant, if the international community fails to keep pace with the lessons learned about the relationship between culture and sustainable development at local level. The work of local and regional governments on the ground has proven that the Sustainable Development Goals related to poverty, gender equality, health, education, climate change, and peace and security cannot be achieved

without taking into account and working with the distinct identities, values and practices of local cultures.

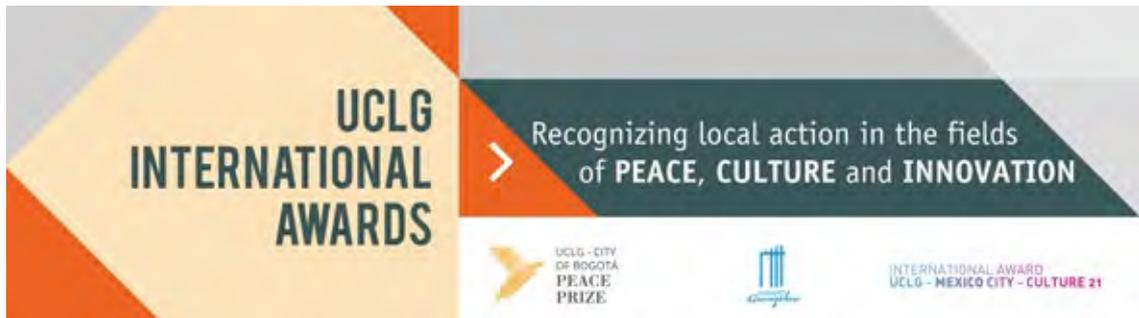
These insights will feed into the ongoing advocacy work of international government networks in the Post-2015 and Habitat III negotiations, particularly the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, which has been pushing for a “localized” Agenda that takes into account local realities, including culture, on the ground. The Global Taskforce will take particular note of the strong calls in the session on **“The place of culture in the sustainable development goals” for robust indicators for targets related to culture and of the value of cooperation between local government and civil society networks** on shared issues of concern.

The diverse range of successful cultural policies and programmes presented by cities over the course of the three-day event in Bilbao are all based on a common understanding of the mutual interdependence between the economic, social, environmental and cultural pillars of sustainability.

These principles are reflected in **“Culture 21: Actions”**, which the **UCLG Committee on Culture** adopted at the Summit. Published in **English, French, Spanish and Basque**, this new tool provides adaptable guidelines to enable cities committed to culture and sustainable development to assess and improve their work in these areas and to exchange experiences and good practices with other cities. Over the next two years, UCLG will establish a work programme to facilitate peer-to-peer learning related to “Culture 21: Actions”, and will involve cities from different continents.



MORE INFORMATION



Over the last three years, in line with its strategic priorities and work plan, UCLG has created three Awards: in 2012, it created the award for urban innovation; in 2013, an award for culture; and, in the same year, the Peace Prize.

The UCLG awards are collaborative initiatives for our members with the aim of drawing public attention to the achievements of local and regional governments in clearly identified areas. These awards are traditionally managed by the UCLG Committees, Working Groups or Communities of Practice.

The UCLG awards help to focus the political and communication work related to UCLG's main activities on a single event, namely the Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation, the International Award and the Peace Prize.

They provide an opportunity to reproduce and promote the exchange of best practices among the UCLG community and lead to the creation,

the gathering and development of platforms of case studies, which encourage innovation and learning in the network.

The UCLG awards are aimed at helping local and regional governments to gain international recognition and to act as catalysts for new ways and means of responding to the social, economic, environmental and governance challenges faced by local and regional authorities.

Through these awards, UCLG celebrates and makes available its knowledge and the expertise of local initiatives, not only among its members, but also with the general public.

The updated full titles of the three awards are: the UCLG-City of Bogotá Peace Prize, the International Award UCLG - Mexico City - Culture 21 and the Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation.

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

A KEY YEAR FOR UCLG

Several major events for UCLG and its members took place in 2015, including the Executive Bureau meeting in Porto Alegre and the World Congress, which took place back-to-back with COP 21.

The Executive Bureau addressed UCLG's strategies for its contributions to Habitat III and the other international agendas under negotiation.

The World Congress called attention to the objectives of peace, support for refugees and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals from the 2030 Agenda.



1st SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BUREAU FOR 2015: SOLIDARITY AT THE HEART OF THE OUTCOMES

Around 200 representatives of Local Authorities from over 35 countries and all world regions participated in the first session of the UCLG Executive that took place between 10 and 12 June 2015 in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

The various meetings provided an opportunity to discuss UCLG's strategies for its contributions to Habitat II and the other international agendas under negotiation. The Post-2015 Development Agenda, the Addis Ababa International Conference on Financing for Development in July 2015, the new international framework for the fight against climate change (COP 21 in Paris

in December 2015) and the New Urban Agenda, Habitat III, were all addressed.

Latin American members of UCLG and their networks ensured their commitment to work to strengthen the presence of the region within the framework of the Organization, and agreed to set up cooperation mechanisms. All participants thought that the knowledge acquired in the region was invaluable and should inspire and enrich other regions and the Global Agenda of Local and Regional Governments. The networks presented proposals to start working towards a renewed structure that would ensure ownership and allow the effective representation of all types of members in UCLG. They proposed to set up a dialogue mechanism, with the aim of reaching concrete agreements by the end of 2015.

The signature of a Strategic Partnership with the European Union in January 2015 gave an additional boost to the Organization. It also enabled greater recognition of everyone's responsibility in the development of this movement, which is associative, inclusive, pluralistic and built on local democracy.



LOCAL VOICES FOR A BETTER WORLD

CENTRAL THEME OF THE NEXT UCLG WORLD CONGRESS

The meetings in Porto Alegre were an opportunity to discuss the 5th UCLG World Congress, which is due to take place in October 2016 in Bogotá, Colombia. The Presidency called on members to join forces and make an active contribution to the content of the Congress's agenda. The outcomes helped to define the position of Local Authorities for the Habitat III Conference.

The members adopted a preliminary structure for the Congress. The official sessions will include round tables and high-level discussions, regional caucuses and meetings of the World Assembly.

In September 2015, the dates (12-15 October 2016) and location for this event were confirmed during an initial technical visit.



5th UCLG Congress
WORLD SUMMIT OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEADERS
12-15 October, **BOGOTA 2016**

The theme for the Congress, “Local voices for a better world”, must represent the culmination of the process to build the Global Agenda of Local and Regional Governments for the 21st Century. It also marks the starting point for the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the New Urban Agenda.

Several key themes were identified and will be taken into consideration: the human city, partnerships with civil society, public space and good governance, the reduction of inequalities, resilience and the relationship between metropolitan centres and their peripheries.



5th UCLG Congress
WORLD SUMMIT OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEADERS
#UCLGCongress



BOGOTA 2016
12-15 October

SAVE THE DATE

Local voices for a better world
www.bogota2016.uclg.org

UCLG
Union of Local and Regional Governments

BOGOTA
MEJOR
HABITAT

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

THE 2015 WORLD COUNCIL ADOPTED THREE STRONG POLITICAL MOTIONS

The UCLG World Council brought together over 500 local leaders to discuss some of the key global issues on the political agenda of Local Authorities. There were several highpoints during the event.

A minute's silence was held in remembrance of those killed in the terrorist attacks on 13 November 2015 in the French capital.

The Mayor of Istanbul and UCLG President, Kadir Topbaş, delivered the presidency report, highlighting the important progress made in international advocacy and consolidating the different parts of the UCLG network, including research and the city-to-city learning agenda.



The Mayor of Paris, **Anne Hidalgo** presented a motion entitled **"Solid local democracy and sound local governance: the basis of a successful Habitat**

III Agenda", in which she stressed the need to strengthen decentralization and local democracy as the basis for the New Urban Agenda with a view towards the 2030 Agenda for more just societies. This motion included a proposal to hold an International Summit against Violence and for Peace Education with the city of Madrid, which would provide an occasion for local leaders from across the world to come together with civil society to reflect on peace.



The Mayor of Dakar, **Khalifa Sall**, presented a motion on the **2030 Agenda**, through which he emphasized that the localization of the 2030 Agenda was not only the

implementation of a global or national agenda at local level, but rather building adequate conditions at local level to achieve the global goals. He also called for a strong mechanism for the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and an intergovernmental panel on sustainable urbanization under the auspices of the High-level Political Forum, with representation from Local Authorities.



The Mayor of Barcelona, **Ada Colau**, presented a **motion on local and regional governments' solidarity and preparedness instrumental to**

the humanitarian crisis, whether natural or man-made. In her speech, she stressed the legal and moral obligation of local governments, which must welcome those fleeing from natural and human disasters in their regions and protect the human rights of displaced people. In line with this motion, UCLG decided to set up a working group "to coordinate local action on refugees and allow cities to exchange knowledge, as well as to undertake joint advocacy directed at state governments regarding their competencies in the area".



2ND SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BUREAU FOR 2015: CONTINUING TO FACILITATE THE GLOBAL TASKFORCE

The second session of the Executive Bureau for 2015 was an opportunity to present the outcomes and recommendations from the Third World Forum of Local Economic Development, which took place in Turin from 13 to 16 October 2015, and highlight the major role of Local Authorities in local economic development.

Updates were also provided on UCLG's global awards, which aim to highlight the major achievements of Local Authorities in a range of fields. UCLG members were invited to submit their entries for the first edition of the UCLG-City of Bogotá Peace Prize, the second edition of the "International Award UCLG - MEXICO City - Culture 21" and the third edition of the Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation.

THE UCLG WORLD COUNCIL IS COMPOSED OF 340 MEMBERS

The World Council is the principal policy-making body of UCLG. It decides the World Organization's policies and ensures that general policies decided by the General Assembly are implemented. Composed of 340 members, it meets once a year. In 2015, it met in Paris, France, at the kind invitation of Mayor of Paris and UCLG Co-President, Anne Hidalgo.



LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

AN EXECUTIVE BUREAU RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE DECISIONS OF THE WORLD COUNCIL

The Executive Bureau is responsible for initiating proposals and carrying out the decisions of the World Council, and for any other duty assigned to it by the World Council. It is in charge of the World Organization's administrative and financial management. It prepares the meetings of the World Council and of the General Assembly.

The Bureau also took note of the ongoing preparations for the 5th UCLG World Congress, the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders: "Local voices for a better world", which will be held in Bogotá from 12 to 15 October 2016, immediately before Habitat III.

The Executive Bureau mandated the World Secretariat to continue facilitating the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments and encouraged members to actively participate.

LATIN AMERICAN DECLARATION OF UNITY

Within the framework of the World Council, the major networks of Latin American Local Authorities committed to seek unity.



The meeting was convened jointly by the Euro-Latin American Alliance for Cooperation between Cities (AL-LAS Project), the Mercociudades network, the South American Cities Network (REDCISUR) and the Latin American Federation of Cities, Municipalities and Associations (FLACMA). The meeting resulted in the signing of the Declaration of Mayors of Latin America Committed to Unity in Diversity.

The Declaration seeks to establish a Latin American organization that will unite cities of all sizes, and urban and rural areas, through an international platform of dialogue and advocacy, which will facilitate discourse with international organizations and involvement in global decision-making.

"FROM COP21 TO HABITAT III" SEMINAR: LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND CITIZENS AT THE HEART OF CLIMATE CHALLENGES

The "From COP 21 to Habitat III" seminar emphasized that the social dimension was central to climate issues.

The discussions highlighted the fact that climate change is both a social and environmental challenge and stressed the need for local governments to work in partnership with civil society to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the climate change agenda, and New Urban Agenda.

The session provided mayors and local leaders with the opportunity to identify common priorities and messages for Habitat III.

Participants from local government and civil society also called for genuine citizen participation in



urban planning and development, particularly of women and indigenous peoples.

The need to consider human rights, sustainable development, gender equality and cultural approaches was also stressed by the speakers.

All participants agreed that the right to the city and local democracy must be at the heart of Habitat III.

In discussions on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, it was agreed that a lack of political will and financing were largely to blame for the failures to achieve the Habitat II commitments, and that these must be addressed as an integral part of the Habitat III process.

The seminar concluded with a consensus that the formal role of Local Authorities in the Habitat III negotiation process must be strengthened, and that UCLG must continue to facilitate city-to-city learning and cooperation between local governments.



WOMEN LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

The issue of gender equality at local level was the subject of a specific meeting and three round tables.



Representatives of local authorities and associations met at the Paris City Hall to discuss the role that gender equality at local level will play in the implementation of the major international agendas.

Anne Hidalgo, Chair of the Standing Committee on Gender Equality called for increased representation of women in local institutions.

Three round table discussions took place at the event; the first on “Local policies and services for equality: local support for SDG 5” explored the role of local policy in the achievement of gender equality and the 2030 Agenda. The second, “A gender-sensitive agenda for Habitat III”, looked at how to seize the Habitat III Conference as an opportunity to put gender equality at the centre of city planning and governance, and the third, “Empowered women: the foundation of resilient cities”, asked how women could contribute their priorities, skills and knowledge to build a more sustainable future.

RENEWAL OF LOCAL LEADERS

Following local elections in a number of countries in 2015, some new figures took up posts in the Governing Bodies of UCLG.

Fathallah Oualalou, former mayor of Rabat, Morocco, and UCLG Treasurer, was replaced by Berry Vrbanovic, Mayor of Kitchener, Canada, Deputy Treasurer of UCLG., President Emeritus of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Annemarie Jorritsma-Lebbink, former President of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), former President of the Association of Netherlands municipalities (VNG), former Mayor of Almere, was replaced as Vice-President for Europe by Iñigo De La Serna, Acting President and Co-President of CEMR, First Vice-President of the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP),

Mayor of Santander, Spain.

Jean-Paul Huchon, former President of Metropolis, former President of the Ile-de- France Region, France, was replaced as Vice-President for the Metropolitan Section by Denis Coderre, President of Metropolis, Mayor of Montreal, Canada.

Paúl Carrasco, President of FOGAR, President of the Province of Azuay, Ecuador, was replaced by Miguel Lifschitz, Governor of the Province of Santa Fe, Argentina, new President of the Forum of Regions, UCLG Regions.



4.

UCLG COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

Participating in the development of UCLG policies

Developing proposals and initiatives for cooperation between local governments and their associations



“

The Committees and their Working Groups enable UCLG members to get to know each other better and to promote innovation.

Chen Jianhua
UCLG Co-President
Mayor of Guangzhou, China



COMMITTEES: UCLG “CHAMPIONS” AT MAJOR INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

The UCLG Committees focus on the major issues affecting Local Authorities throughout the world.

They have identified the key meetings on their thematic focus areas and have taken part in them in order to voice the concerns of Local Authorities and influence the final declarations.

In this way, they have worked to prepare specifically for the Habitat III conference through their presence and contributions to the various global agendas.

The Committees prepare and implement UCLG policies within priority areas defined by the Executive Bureau and in the work programme for the current period. The results of their work are submitted to the UCLG Executive Bureau. UCLG currently has 11 active Committees. Each Committee can establish one or more Working Group. Their mandate is for three years, until the next UCLG Congress in 2016.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON
GENDER EQUALITY

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COMMITTEE ON
**DECENTRALIZATION AND LOCAL
SELF-GOVERNMENT**

..

COMMITTEE ON **LOCAL FINANCE
AND DEVELOPMENT**

..

COMMITTEE ON **CULTURE**

..

COMMITTEE ON **DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION AND CITY
DIPLOMACY**

..

WORKING GROUP ON **CAPACITY
AND INSTITUTION BUILDING**

..

WORKING GROUP ON **MIGRATION
AND CO-DEVELOPMENT**

..

WORKING GROUP ON **GOVERNMENTS
AND COOPERATION IN THE MIDDLE
EAST**

..

COMMITTEE ON **SOCIAL
INCLUSION, PARTICIPATORY
DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

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MEDITERRANEAN INTERREGIONAL
COMMITTEE

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COMMITTEE FOR **FOR URBAN
HEALTH**

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COMMITTEE ON **PERIPHERAL
CITIES**

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COMMITTEE ON **URBAN
STRATEGIC PLANNING**

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WORKING GROUP ON
INTERMEDIARY CITIES

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WORKING GROUP ON **LOCAL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (LED)**

••

COMMITTEE ON **DIGITAL AND
KNOWLEDGE-BASED CITIES**

••

**COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE ON
URBAN INNOVATION** TASKFORCE

••

TASKFORCE **ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT DISASTER
RESPONSE**

••

SIX WORKING GROUPS AND TWO TASKFORCES INCREASE UCLG'S INFLUENCE

UCLG's Working Groups have played a concrete role in defining proposals and initiatives to promote local economic development and with a view to international processes, such as the SDGs and Habitat III.

With respect to the topics covered, they intensified the cooperation among themselves, as well as with the Taskforces and relevant Committees, thereby greatly reflecting the diversity of Local Authorities.

The Working Groups also strengthened links by cooperating with other international organizations, such as the UN and ILO.

The Working Groups help to develop proposals and/or initiatives for cooperation between local governments and their associations, in order to enrich the debate in UCLG. At present, UCLG has 6 Working Groups. Their mandate is for three years, until the next UCLG Congress in 2016.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENDER EQUALITY PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY WITH A VIEW TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

National agencies and the United Nations regard UCLG as the global voice of locally elected women.

The Standing Committee on Gender Equality monitors and promotes the participation of women at local level across the world. The Committee firmly believes that the participation of women in local decision-making is the foundation of global development.

The Standing Committee works with locally elected women and grassroots organizations to build their capacities and increase women's representation at local level. As a result of its work with UCLG, UN Women is now promoting the inclusion

of an indicator on elected women local officials, which signals important progress in the participation of women in local politics.

In December 2015, Mayor of Paris and Chair of the UCLG Standing Committee on Gender Equality, Anne Hidalgo, hosted **Women, Leadership and Development** at the Paris City Hall, in the framework of

the UCLG World Council and COP 21. The session was a unique opportunity for locally elected women, local government practitioners and associations to discuss the role that gender equality at local level will play in the implementation of the major international development and sustainability agendas.



COMMITTEE ON DECENTRALIZATION AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT A NEW GLOBAL DATABASE ON URBAN GOVERNANCE



The UCLG Committee on Decentralization and Local Self-Government worked jointly with LSE Cities (London School of Economics and Political Science Research Centre) to launch the Urban Governance Survey online platform. The initiative is an attempt to address a general lack of data on how cities are governed around the world. The results of this survey took the form of a new global database, which is available online and explores current models of urban governance.

Global comparative research on urban governance is confronted with a substantial data challenge: regardless of the ever-increasing availability of information on institutional arrangements in individual cities, knowledge and methodologies to capture and compare the wide range of different urban governance systems are limited. The global Urban Governance Survey addresses this data challenge and explores new ways of communicating and "mapping" urban governance for public dissemination, comparative policy and research analysis

COMMITTEE ON LOCAL FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE ADVOCACY CONDUCTED DURING THE ADDIS ABABA CONFERENCE

The UCLG Committee on Local Finance and Development supported the efforts of the Global Taskforce (GTF) and its participation in Addis Ababa through the following:

- 1) The accreditation of a delegation of Local Authorities
- 2) The organization of a side event on a project for a global observatory on local finance, bringing together national and global partners committed to this topic
- 3) Support for the organization of two GTF side events in Addis Ababa to present and defend the Committee's positions, and collaboration in other



side events organized by members and partners of the GTF (FMDV, UN-Habitat, Cities Alliance and CLGF).

Financing at the heart of the World Summit on Climate and Territories

The Committee was also involved in the World Summit on Climate and Territories and the organization of the workshop dedicated to climate finance, together with the Group for the Environment, Renewable Energy and Solidarity (GERES). The conclusions and recommendations from the workshop were included in the final declaration, which

emphasized the importance of adequate financing for territorial initiatives.

Study on fiscal decentralization

In order to support UCLG advocacy on local finance, the Committee is conducting a study on the conditions for the mobilization of local resources for sustainable urbanization, centred around three main fields of study: local taxation, land valuation and access to external resources. The preliminary findings are being tested through more in-depth analyses of 12 case studies of local governments from around the world. In addition, the Committee is producing a comparative statistical study on the state of local finance in 80 countries worldwide, in partnership with the OECD and AFD. This study is a first step towards a project for a global observatory on local finance as a tool for improving transparency and dialogue between levels of government, and the monitoring of fiscal decentralization.

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE CULTURE 21: ACTIONS

The first UCLG Culture Summit was hosted by the city of Bilbao, the Basque Country, Spain, from 18 to 20 March 2015. Key players from the world of culture, including activists, local officials and political representatives, took part. It brought together 75 cities and 69 local, national and international organizations from all continents. The highpoint of the first Culture Summit was the adoption of "Culture 21: Actions". Both a global declaration and a toolkit based on the Agenda 21 for Culture, it promotes expertise, peering learning and exchange. "Culture 21: Actions" provides adaptable guidelines to enable cities committed to culture and sustainable

development to assess and improve their work in these areas, and to exchange experiences and good practices with one another. Establishing a solid partnership between local governments and civil society networks was also a clear mandate received from the Summit.



COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AND CITY DIPLOMACY (DCCD) UCLG CHAMPIONS OF DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

The members of the Committee on Development Cooperation and City Diplomacy (DCCD) took part in high-level meetings alongside the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UN-Habitat, as UCLG Champions of development cooperation. The Working Group on Capacity and Institution Building organized this programme on behalf of the Committee.

On 19 November 2015, the Committee presented the UCLG Peace Prize. The aim of the Prize is to contribute to the full recognition of the important but often overlooked role that local governments play as

peacebuilding actors and, by doing so, in creating a more effective approach to conflict resolution.

In 2015, the Committee met on two occasions to discuss its role in supporting UCLG's strategic courses of action. These meetings served as a platform within the World Organization for strategic dialogues on development cooperation and city diplomacy. They enabled concrete strategic recommendations to be developed on these issues, with the aim of feeding international discussions.

WORKING GROUP ON CAPACITY AND INSTITUTION BUILDING EXCHANGING TOOLS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG)

The annual meeting of the Working Group on Capacity and Institution Building was held in the Hague, Netherlands, on 1 and 2 October 2015 by VNG International, the international cooperation agency of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities. It was attended by 50 managers, directors and advisers, who shared their thoughts on the latest developments in their own



organizations, as well as in the international agenda and with regard to UCLG. The main topics included:

- The role and responsibilities of Local Authorities in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in September 2015.
- The run-up to the Habitat III conference.
- The role of the Working Group played during the "Global

Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation", which took place in Mexico in September 2015.

Members committed to:

- Exchange tools on the implementation of the SDGs and to continue to support the UCLG Champions of development cooperation, in order to ensure effective advocacy at international meetings.
- Update the action plan to ensure more effective development and to carry out an analysis of the most efficient monitoring and evaluation systems.
- To boost the Working Group's role in supporting global advocacy on development cooperation within the United Nations Development Cooperation Fora.

WORKING GROUP ON MIGRATION AND CO-DEVELOPMENT A WORK PLAN AND NEW SYNERGIES IMPLEMENTED

The Working Group on Migration and Co-Development organized a meeting with its Chair and two of its Vice-Chairs, in order to discuss and draw up the Group's work plan.

It also worked with other UCLG Committees and Working Groups to find common ground, to share goals and action programmes and to

establish synergies. It therefore collaborated closely with the Committee on Development Cooperation and City Diplomacy, the Committee on Social Inclusion, the Committee on Peripheral Cities, the Mediterranean Interregional Committee and the Working Group on Cooperation in the Middle East.

WORKING GROUP ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND COOPERATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SYRIAN REFUGEES AND THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AT THE CORE OF CONCERNS

Following a UCLG mission to the Syrian borders in 2013, work continued on the issue of Syrian refugees.

In September 2014 in Amman, Jordan, the Group co-organized a seminar which addressed, in partnership with PLATFORMA, the response of Local Authorities to the influx of Syrian refugees. A study was carried out by Cités Unies France on this occasion, with the title “What is the role of local governments in

fragile States in crisis situations? The case of the Syrian crisis”.

In October 2015, in Paris, France, the Group organized the conference on Franco-Palestinian decentralized cooperation with an outward-looking European and international perspective. This event brought together 80 Palestinian elected officials and 150 representatives from French and European Local Authorities.

COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL INCLUSION, PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ROLE OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN PROMOTING AND PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS RECOGNIZED IN GENEVA

International Seminar of Local Governments for the Right to the City

The Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights of UCLG was a stakeholder at the International Seminar of Local Governments for the Right to the City, which was held in Mexico City from 20 to 22 April 2015 on the city’s initiative. This Seminar, which brought together 4,500 participants, once again demonstrated the extent to which human rights in the city are essential in an urban world faced with many challenges. It was also testament to the fact that human rights unite local governments and citizens in the

local democratic process, which is intrinsic to decentralization.

The Final Declaration adopted at the end of the Seminar reaffirms the importance of the right to the city in a predominantly urban world where inequalities are threatening common well-being. The Declaration calls to expand the network of local governments committed to the right to the city and to build strategic alliances with civil society in order to influence the New Urban Agenda. It also asks UN-Habitat to ensure the effective participation of local governments and their associations, in collaboration with civil society, in the preparation, organization and holding of the Habitat III Conference.

30th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

On 22 September, on the occasion of the 30th Session of the United

Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, a report on the role of local governments in promoting and protecting human rights was presented. Since 2014, the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights has played an active part in drafting this report by the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee. The final version of the report acknowledges the crucial role of decentralization in localizing democracy and human rights. It reaffirms the shared and complementary duties of States and governments in the respect, protection and exercise of human rights. Indeed, Local Authorities are often the bodies which translate international and national human rights obligations into practical actions through their public policies. The Human Rights Council was carried out on 18 September through the side event attended by the Committee in Seoul, Republic of Korea.



MEDITERRANEAN INTERREGIONAL COMMITTEE TOWARDS A MORE TERRITORIAL APPROACH TO POLICIES

In 2015, the European Commission launched a major consultation with a view to conducting an in-depth review of its neighbourhood policy related to the Mediterranean region (Southern neighbourhood) and the East of the Union. Local Authorities took this opportunity to voice their suggestions on the future



neighbourhood policy through the responses from the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM), MedCities and the Inter-Mediterranean Commission of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions of Europe (IMC-CPMR).

Mediterranean local and regional authorities called for a distinction to be made and a balance restored between the geographic components of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). For the Mediterranean area, it is important to achieve a better interconnection between a reinforced regional policy (macro-region strategy to be considered) and adequately differentiated bilateral cooperation. The need for a less sectoral and more territorial approach to policies was also mentioned. Finally, local and regional leaders called for more involvement of the local level in the reviewed ENP.

COMMITTEE ON PERIPHERAL CITIES THE FUTURE OF CITIES CANNOT BE DECIDED WITHOUT THE VOICE OF THE TERRITORIES



2015 was a very eventful year for the Committee on Peripheral Cities, through the activities of the World Forum of Peripheral Local Authorities (FALP). The presidency of the Committee met in February in Nanterre, France, in order to define a work plan in the run up to the 4th Congress of the FALP in June 2016.

The Committee held its annual meeting within the framework of the UCLG Executive Bureau in June 2015 in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

In addition, the Committee organized the 2nd International Assembly of the FALP network in Morón, Argentina, in September, which gathered together 50 Local Authorities from 12 countries. This Assembly, which focused

on youth, gave 50 young people from 10 countries the opportunity to meet local elected officials and discuss subjects such as the "radicalization of democracy", the "right to centrality" and "social inclusion" with them.

The Committee also attended the meetings on the right to the city in Mexico and Bogotá, as well as the 15th Conference of the International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (OIDP) in Madrid in March 2015.

At COP 21, the FALP network helped to organize the "Popular metropolitan peripheries, key players in the fight against climate change" parallel event.

COMMITTEE ON URBAN STRATEGIC PLANNING (USP) INFLUENCING THE VARIOUS GLOBAL AGENDAS IN PREPARATION FOR HABITAT III

Intermediary cities became the central topic of the global agenda and GOLD process; the Working Group and the Intermediary Cities Network (CIME) were involved and guided the conclusions of the consultation and the development.

Shortly before doing so, 3 Committee members took part in the final expert meeting on

cross-cutting guidelines for urban planning. The guidelines were presented to the Habitat Governing Council in Nairobi, and the Secretary General of UCLG Africa delivered the UCLG position.

A number of Committee members participated in the "Urban October" UN-Habitat initiative to promote public space, particularly on World Habitat Day on 5 October 2015.

The UN-Habitat consultations for Habitat III on intermediary cities were held in Cuenca on 12 and 13 November, and were attended by UCLG teams and by the coordinator of the UCLG Working Group on Intermediary Cities.

Local economic development and urban-rural policies for intermediary cities

From 27 to 30 January, a learning exchange on the issues of local economic development and urban-rural policies for intermediary cities took place in Pasto, Colombia. The event emphasized the importance of urban-rural policies to respond to the challenges faced by rural areas, through an economy of proximity. It was co-organized by the UCLG Working Group on Intermediary Cities, Finde-ter, the International Labour

Organization (ILO), GIZ and UN-Habitat.

The peer learning Southern Africa-Brazil project, which UCLG coordinated with the support of the European Commission, concluded in June 2015. Its goal was to improve the capacities of Local Authorities in Brazil and Mozambique. The topics of urban planning and management between cities were the subject of collaborative work plans.

The Committee participated in the

Biennale on public space in Rome from 21 to 24 May 2015, organized by the Italian institute of urban planning and UN-Habitat. At this event, the Committee launched the “Public space and citizenship” peer learning publication, which gathers the conclusions of the October 2014 session in Porto Alegre. The charter on public space tools was also relaunched.

It also took part in the 9th edition of the International Public Markets Conference, from 26 to 28 March in Barcelona.



WORKING GROUP ON LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (LED) A COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK FOR “INTEGRATING” AND “LOCALIZING” THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Third World Forum of Local Economic Development took place in Turin, Italy, from 13 to 16 October 2015. UCLG and its Working Group on Local Economic Development (LED) were organizing partners; as such, they participated in the Executive Committee and mobilized speakers and participants from the local level. This biennial event is part of a continuous process of learning, sharing and knowledge.

For its publication that contributed to the Forum, UCLG drew on the policy document prepared by the LED Working Group, which

outlines its key positioning on local economic development: “The Role of Local Governments in Local Economic Development”.

The Forum recognized and valued the LED approach as a valid means for the effective and sustainable implementation of the SDGs at local level, by offering a comprehensive framework for ‘integrating’ and ‘localizing’ the SDGs. It highlighted the key role of Local Authorities as catalysts. They are initiators and drivers of effective LED processes, by building ownership and consensus on the development of the territory, promoting partnerships and facilitating coordinated action and synergies.



WORKING GROUP ON INTERMEDIARY CITIES

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND RURAL-URBAN LINKS AS THE PRIMARY FOCUS

From 27 to 30 January, the UCLG Working Group on Intermediary Cities, the UCLG World Secretariat, the city of Pasto, Findeter and the International Labour Organization (ILO) co-organized a learning exchange. Local economic development and urban-rural policies for intermediary cities were the central topics. The exchange of experiences between national and international experts, and representatives of local, regional and national governments showed that the economies of proximity are an opportunity to boost local economic development and the creation of decent employment in the region.

On 23 and 24 March in Barcelona, Spain, the Working Group took part in the UCLG consultation on intermediary cities, with a view towards the development of the Global Agenda of Local and Regional Governments. The Working Group



advocated for the need to reposition intermediary cities in messages on the national and global economy and to work on raising their status and their profile both at national and international level.



From 26 to 28 March in Barcelona, the Working Group represented UCLG at the 9th edition of the International Public Markets Conference. The event revealed a new global vision for public markets. They emerged as authentic places that are increasingly recognized for their contributions to the food supply system and local economic

development. The important role that markets play in recognizing and maintaining rural-urban linkages was highlighted by the mayors and elected officials that spoke on behalf of UCLG.

From 2013 to 2015, UCLG organized and promoted discussion amongst local leaders, practitioners, experts and development partners on planning and financing for the future of Intermediary Cities. The results of the discussions and activities have been gathered in a “Frame Document”. Drafted with the UNESCO Chair, the intermediary cities university network, the document is composed of practical data on the opportunities and strategies of intermediary cities.



COMMITTEE ON DIGITAL AND KNOWLEDGE-BASED CITIES

THE MODERNIZATION OF MUNICIPAL MANAGEMENT, A MAJOR CHALLENGE



With the aim of encouraging knowledge exchange and collaboration between cities, the Committee on Digital and Knowledge-Based Cities organized its 2015 annual event in Sao Paulo, Brazil, from 30 September to 2 October. The “2nd

Seminar on the Modernization of Municipal Management” gave participants the opportunity to discuss topics related to the use of new technologies, innovation and knowledge that would make cities more efficient and sustainable. The topics addressed facilitated the exchange of experiences; they included open government at local level; innovation in local administration; integrated municipal management systems; electronic local government; the need to encourage public-private partnerships (PPPs); sustainable urban mobility; and technologies applied to environmental management.

**COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE
ON URBAN INNOVATION**

TASKFORCE

**THE GUANGZHOU
AWARD: FIELD VISITS TO
ENCOURAGE LEARNING
AMONG LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

A series of field visits to the 15 cities whose initiatives were shortlisted for the 2nd Guangzhou Award (China) were conducted. The purpose of these visits was to compile research documentation and to promote peer learning within the UCLG network. The two initial sessions of these study visits took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 18 and 21 May, respectively. In addition, the “Guangzhou Workshop



for Thought Leaders: Learning from Urban Innovation” was held in Guangzhou from 2 to 6 November 2015. This event, which was designed for policy and decision makers, provided a unique opportunity for them to meet with experts, professionals and urban leaders. They were able to learn about the best practices for resolving urban challenges and improving the way cities work for the benefit of their inhabitants.

The Guangzhou Award gives recognition to innovative practices in the local public sector

Co-organized by UCLG, Metropolis, and the Guangzhou Municipal Government, the Guangzhou Award aims to reward innovations to improve the socio-economic environments in cities and regions, promote sustainability, and, by doing so, advance the well-being of their citizens. Presented biennially, the Award encourages and gives recognition to outstanding innovative projects and practices in the public sector.

TASKFORCE ON
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT
DISASTER RESPONSE**

**LAUNCH OF A STUDY
ON THE ROLE OF LOCAL
AUTHORITIES IN CRISIS
SITUATIONS**



The Taskforce on Local Government Disaster Response was involved in the preparations and mobilization around the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, which took place in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015. It then began work on a study on the role of Local Authorities

in crisis situations, aiming to contribute to the urban track of the World Humanitarian Summit planned for 23 and 24 May 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey. The Taskforce is also currently preparing a technical seminar for the UN agencies involved in post-disaster development issues.

5.

THE UCLG SECTIONS

Key voices of the major
regions of the world



From America to Asia, through Europe and Africa, the UCLG Sections have worked to increase the recognition of the Local Authorities that it represents on the international stage, in particular with a view to the Habitat III Conference.

Whether as organizers or attendees of the many seminars and meetings, each of them developed ideas and proposals on the major global issues, such as climate change, sustainable urbanization and governance.



THE UCLG SECTIONS

These Sections develop their own policies and manage their own affairs, providing institutional support to the World Organization in the fulfilment of its mission and goals, in their geographical area.

The UCLG networks is composed of:

7 REGIONAL SECTIONS

- 📍 African Section, UCLG Africa
- 📍 Latin-American Section, Latin-American Federation of Cities, Municipalities and Local Government Associations (FLACMA)
- 📍 Asia-Pacific Section, UCLG-ASPAC
- 📍 Eurasia Section, UCLG-Eurasia
- 📍 Europe Section, Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)
- 📍 Middle East and West Asia Section, UCLG-MEWA
- 📍 North American Section, Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)

A METROPOLITAN SECTION

- 📍 Metropolis

A SECTION FOR REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

- 📍 Forum of Regions, UCLG Regions



AFRICA

UCLG AFRICA DRAWS ON ITS REGIONAL SEMINARS IN ORDER TO "BUILD AFRICAN UNITY FROM THE GRASSROOTS"

In the framework of the partnership signed with the European Union to strengthen local governments in Africa, UCLG Africa conducted a series of Regional Seminars in West, East and Central Africa.

These regional seminars had two aims in particular:

- working on the emergence of the political voice of Local Authorities by fostering the participation of African people in Africa's development
- improving the contribution of Local Authorities to the building of a common African and EU agenda on conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

This helped to strengthen the capacities of national and regional associations of Local Authorities in Africa. The aim is for them to be able to improve local governments' inputs on global governance issues in the framework of the African Union and United Nations.

Regional seminars for local leaders

The first Regional Seminar took place in West Africa. It aimed to improve participants' knowledge on the evolution of the environment, in order to facilitate the action of local governments, both in Africa and at world level.

The East African Regional Seminar, held in Entebbe from 5 to 7 September, focused on the Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralization, Local Governance and Local Development.

The Central African Regional Seminar, which was held in Brazzaville from 29 to 31 October, also addressed the signing and ratification process of the African Charter and the participation of Central African members in UCLG Africa's committees and networks.

For national associations of local governments in Africa, mayors and representatives of capital cities in Africa, these regional seminars represented an excellent opportunity to contribute to the process of implementing its vision of "building African unity and driving its development from the grassroots".

7th edition of Africités

UCLG Africa and the City of Johannesburg, South Africa, hosted the 7th edition of Africités from 29 November to 2 December 2015. The event enabled participants to expand their networks. They were also able to build new partnerships for the acquisition of solutions, technology and innovative equipment to meet their needs and for use in local development projects. The main topics of discussion addressed local economic development in Africa and the network of economic experts, the road to Habitat III, the challenges of climate change in Africa and "territorial coaching" on local finances.





LATIN AMERICA

FLACMA BOOSTS ITS PRESENCE IN LOCAL NETWORKS AND AT REGIONAL SUMMITS

In 2015, the UCLG Latin American and the Caribbean Section (FLACMA), conducted dialogues with networks and associations in the region, including the Open Permanent Working Group (GATP), the Confederation of Associations of Municipalities of Central America and the Caribbean (CAMCAYCA), the National Federation of Municipalities of Mexico (FENAMM), the National Association of Mayors of Mexico (ANAC) and the Association of Local Authorities of Mexico (AALMAC). Meetings were held in Brazil, Colombia, Mexico and Uruguay. The goal was to unify the municipal movement in the region.

In order to strengthen its management, a Technical Committee with representation from all FLACMA's six regions was formed by the executive directors of national associations, which assume shared responsibilities. This new structure is working to develop new projects through international cooperation. It also develops the Federation's positioning on international issues based on the decentralization processes and the municipal agendas of the region. A monthly online newsletter has also been launched.

The Federation took part in the Latin American Summit of Cities and Local Governments in April in Mar del Plata, Argentina, the 3rd Ibero-American Congress of Green Municipalities in October in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, and the Mexican Annual Conference of Municipalities in September in Chihuahua, Mexico.



ASIA-PACIFIC

FACILITATING KNOWLEDGE-SHARING AMONG ELECTED OFFICIALS

The Asia-Pacific Conference on "Local Government Voices Towards Habitat III on a New Urban Agenda" was held in Wakatobi, Indonesia, from 5 to 7 September 2015.

Wakatobi Declaration on a New Urban Agenda



The Conference brought together 100 representatives from cities, local governments, associations of local governments and international partners from the Asia-Pacific region. It provided the occasion to conduct dialogue among local leaders. It emphasized the importance of good governance, sustainable urbanization, the need to shift to low-carbon societies, to tackle climate change and to spread the benefits of economic prosperity that cities generate.

Executive Bureau and Council Meetings

ASPAC Executive Bureau and Council Meetings were held in conjunction with the Conference on the New Urban Agenda. They were attended by mayors, local leaders and other representatives from around the Asia-Pacific region, including the Mayor of Wakatobi, the UCLG ASPAC President, and Governor of Jeju Special Self-Governing Province Mr. Won Hee-Ryong. A number of decisions were taken at the meetings, including the selection of the host for the next Executive Bureau Meeting, the All India Institute of Local Self-Government; the acceptance of new members; and the activities for 2016.

UCLG ASPAC co-hosts the ASEAN Mayors Forum with Makassar



The ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF), entitled, "Adaptive and Intelligent Cities for an Integrated Borderless Prosperous Region" took place in the capital of the province, Makassar, Indonesia, from 9 to 11 September 2015. The Forum discussed key policy frameworks and instruments, and facilitated knowledge-sharing among mayors and a number of international organizations working in the field, with the aim of fostering sustainable development to achieve a stronger community in the ASEAN region. The Forum adopted the Makassar Declaration, which highlights the need to lobby for a stronger ASEAN Secretariat that deals with local government issues, and to plan to organize an Annual Mayors Forum.



EURASIA

THE CITIES, INTERNATIONAL
ACTIVITY RATING



The Eurasia Local Government Congress is held every three years and brings together local and regional leaders from the Eurasian region. The 2015 Eurasia Local Governments Congress took place in Kazan from 31 July to 1 August. The President of UCLG Eurasia presented the first results of the Cities International Activity Rating, an initiative that is conducted by the Secretariat of the UCLG Eurasia Section, together with an expert group, which includes scientists and specialists in the field of international cooperation.



EUROPE

LOBBYING, THE INFLUX
OF REFUGEES, STRATEGIC
PARTNERSHIP WITH THE EU: CEMR
ACTIVE ON MANY FRONTS

With the renewal of the European Commission on 1 November 2014, led by Jean-Claude Juncker, and the election of the new European Parliament in summer 2014, priorities and working methods evolved. 2015, therefore, marked a new beginning for CEMR, the Europe Section of UCLG.

Throughout the year, CEMR took an active and proactive approach to studies related to the financial crisis and the impact of the influx of refugees, and to the successful lobbying and exchange

of knowledge and expertise among its members.

Overall, CEMR was successful in influencing relevant European documents in a series of policy areas, such as climate and COP 21, gender equality, urban agenda, the Transatlantic Partnership on Trade and Investment (TTIP) and public services. These successes are the result of CEMR's good relationships and cooperation with key partners and actors in the European institutions.

In order to strengthen its lobbying efforts, and better coordinate its members, a proper lobbying strategy was designed this year. It complements the research strategy adopted in 2014 and the work achieved through the different projects that CEMR was involved in or led. A dozen spokespersons were also appointed to echo the voice of CEMR and its member associations on different topics.

These efforts are consistent with CEMR's ambition to become the first interlocutor of European institutions for any matter related to local and regional public policy and governance.

The 2016 CEMR Congress, which was held from 20 to 22 April 2016 in Nicosia, Cyprus, was viewed as an important step in this process. 2015 was characterized by intense preparations for this event, which is Europe's largest gathering of local and regional leaders.

PLATFORMA, the European Platform of local and regional authorities for development

Since 2008, PLATFORMA has gathered national, European, and international associations of territorial communities (including CEMR), as well as cities and regions in the field of development cooperation. They are grouped together in order to coordinate their views that are heard by the European institutions, particularly in the drafting and implementation of European development policies.



MIDDLE EAST AND WEST ASIA

FOCUS ON THE ENVIRONMENT WITH
THE HOLDING OF THE SUSTAINABLE
CITIES FORUM AND THE ADOPTION
OF AN ENVIRONMENT AGENDA

UCLG-MEWA, the Middle East and West Asia regional Section, held its Executive Bureau and Council meetings on 13 and 14 November 2015 in Malatya, Turkey. It used these meetings to hold the first meeting of its Committee on Environment and the Sustainable Cities Forum.

These meetings were an important milestone in defining the road map of UCLG MEWA within the context of intense international debates. In order to draw the attention of members to developments to be discussed in the international arena, a short panel was organized in which experts from partner organizations were invited to present common projects.

UCLG MEWA's Committee on Environment, therefore, held its first meeting after the Executive Bureau. Within the context of COP 21, the main goal was to raise awareness of the international development agenda among Local Authorities. An agenda for the environment was defined with members and partners up until 2016. The discussions covered, in particular, policies on the environment, as well as a programme of activities and good practices of local authorities in the MEWA region.

The UCLG MEWA Sustainable Cities Forum aimed to improve exchanges between cities. The objective was to highlight the significant developments made on the international stage and to bring new approaches to the discussion on environmental issues. The four sessions of the Forum highlighted specific issues, such as the role of cities in sustainable life, understanding climate change in the MEWA region, urban agricultural lands and sustainable waste management.



NORTH AMERICA

LOCAL AUTHORITIES BECAME AN IMPORTANT PARTNER OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT

In 2015, Canadians went to the polls for the country's first federal election in four years. During the election campaign, the UCLG regional Section, FCM, and its members made progress in giving local issues a prominent place on the national agenda. All four major parties responded – fully or in part – to the municipal priorities laid out by FCM via its platforms, the Roadmap for Strong Cities and Communities, and the Action Plan for a Strong Rural Canada.

Strategic Partnership and Montreal Declaration

FCM signed strategic partnership agreements with the former Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD), now Global Affairs Canada, on development cooperation, trade and investment. These agreements have positioned FCM as a key partner of the Government of Canada with the aim of ensuring a stronger municipal involvement in development cooperation, trade and investment.

In October, the Montreal Metropolitan Community (CMM) organized the Habitat III Montreal Thematic Meeting on Metropolitan Areas as part of the preparations for Habitat III, which will take place in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016. The event culminated in the adoption of the Montreal Declaration on the importance of metropolitan cooperation to meet the challenges of global urbanization. It proposes the establishment of partnerships between representatives of States, local and metropolitan institutions and civil society, in order to continue to improve quality of life for all citizens. In 2016, the CMM will convene a steering committee to promote the principles and actions outlined in the declaration in the lead up to Habitat III.



METROPOLIS

VOICE OF MAYORS, INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATORY ON LIVING TOGETHER, PREPARATION FOR HABITAT III: METROPOLIS ON ALL FRONTS

2015 marked the 30th birthday of Metropolis, UCLG's metropolitan association, which was created in 1985 and has over 130 members worldwide.

In May 2015, the meeting of the Metropolis Board of Directors took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, receiving over 600 accredited participants, representing 63 cities and 37 countries from around the world. A consensus was reached among the Co-Presidents of Metropolis to appoint Denis Coderre, Mayor of Montreal, to the position of President of Metropolis. He took office on 19 December 2015 until the next Board of Directors meeting in October 2016. Felip Roca became the fifth Secretary General.

Metropolis played a particularly active role in the preparatory work for Habitat III. The Montreal Thematic Meeting on Metropolitan Areas (6-7 October), organized on the initiative of the Metropolitan Community of Montreal (CMM), was selected to host one of the regional preparatory meetings for Habitat III. Metropolis and UCLG actively participated in the discussions on the Montreal Declaration, which is aimed at strengthening advocacy for better integration of metropolises in the final declaration from the Habitat III Conference.

In addition, the "Voice of the Mayors", mayors' testimonials representing the voice of major cities, is a set of flagship publications circulated in partnership with UCLG and the World Urban Campaign during the major events for the global urban community between 2014 and 2017.

Finally, the Mayor's International Observatory on Living Together was launched in Montreal in June.



FORUM OF REGIONS

FORUM OF THE REGIONS REGIONS, NEW PLAYERS IN THE UCLG LEARNING AGENDA

The Forum was given new political impetus during the World Council in Paris (2015). In this context, UCLG is preparing regional governments' contributions to the international agenda, in particular through collaboration with its Sections and members, with a specific focus on Habitat III and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

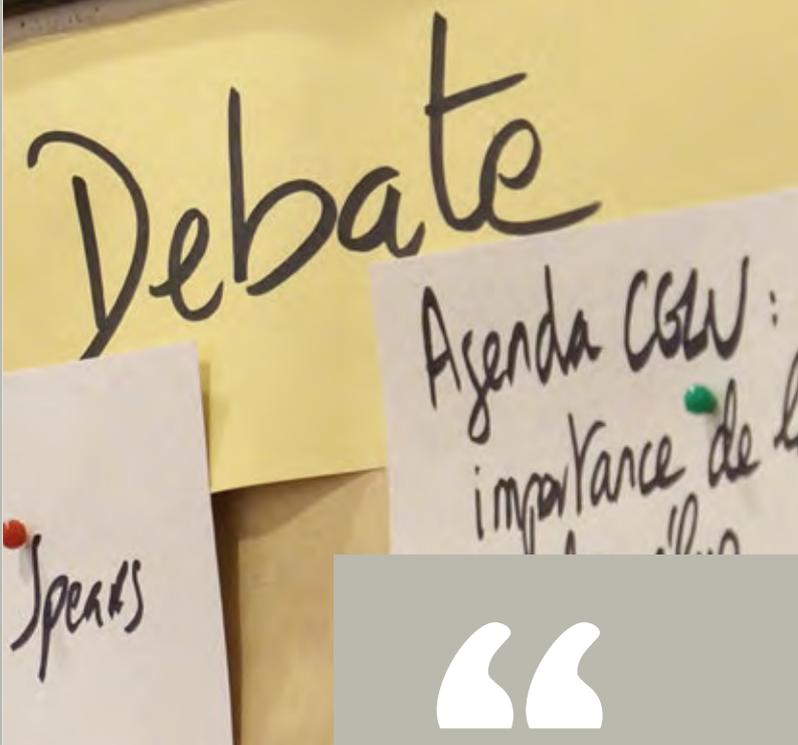
The implementation of Sustainable Development Goals highlights the need to create spaces for territorial cooperation, as well as to adapt public policies to people's real needs by strengthening the role of local and regional governments.



6.

ORGANIZATION

A year characterized by enhanced activities and organization



“

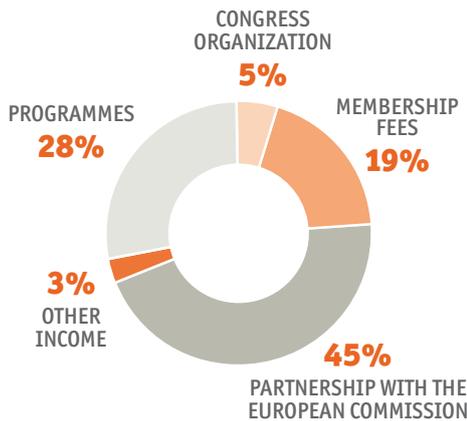
Local Authorities have an operational advantage that their national and international counterparts will never have: they are... local! By uniting, they strengthen one another, share and offer a new forward-looking perspective to their citizens.

Berry Vrbanovic
UCLG Treasurer
Mayor of Kitchener (Canada)
President Emeritus of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities



WORLD SECRETARIAT BUDGET

Income distribution



Budget implementation



Main contributors to UCLG programmes

- European Commission
- Barcelona Provincial Council
- French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development
- French Development Agency
- UN-Habitat
- International Labour Organization

Other contributions that allow UCLG to operate with reduced costs

- The city of Barcelona provides the offices of the World Secretariat.
- Organizations and local authorities provide financing for Committees and Working Groups.
- Host cities cover the cost of statutory meetings, equipment and social events.

Implementing the European Union grant

From a financial perspective, one of the highlights of 2015 was the implementation of a specific grant under the Strategic Partnership with the European Commission.

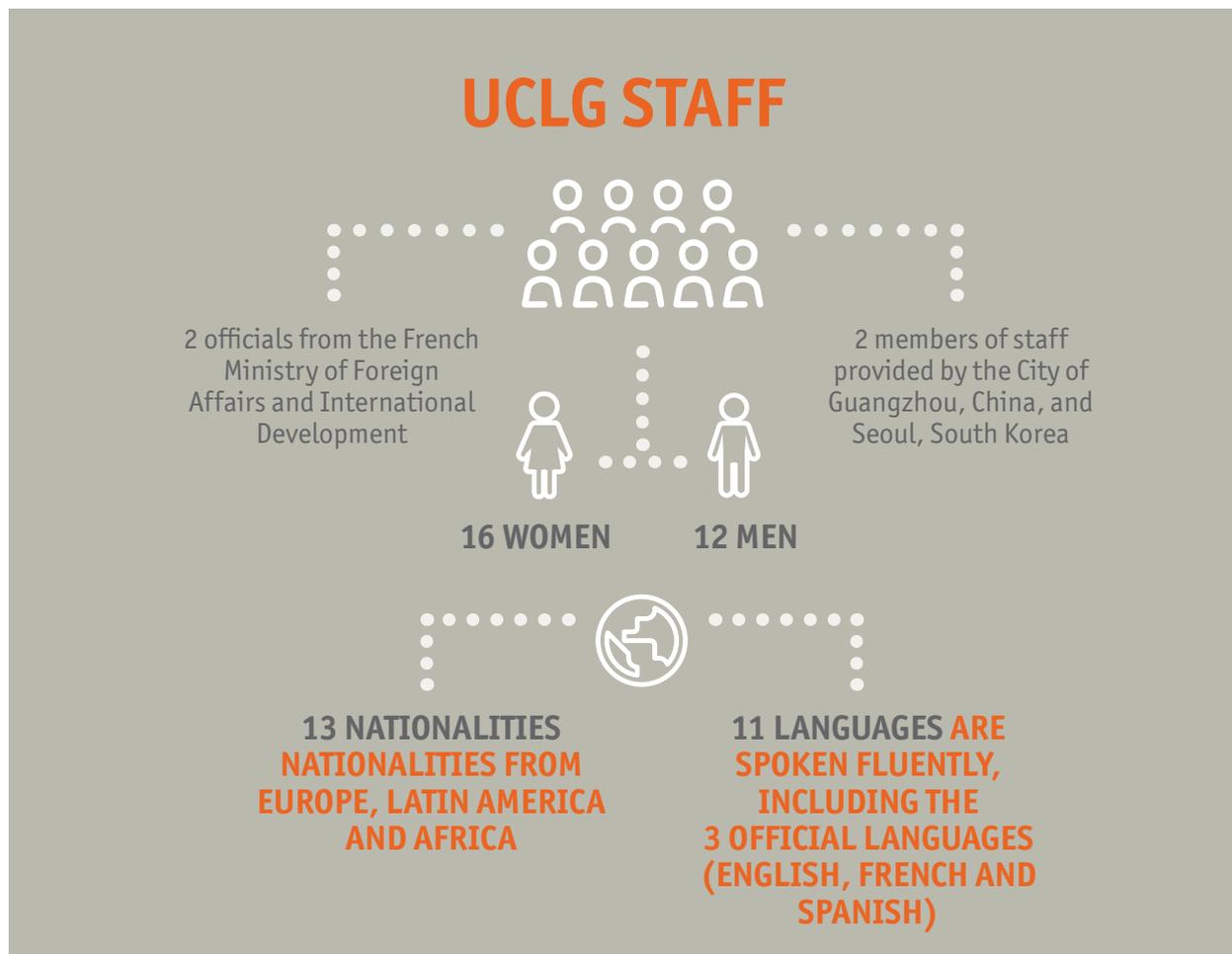
The Organization's income received a significant boost. It was used to develop activities in all existing work areas identified by the Governing Bodies, and to strengthen different parts of the network by supporting additional activities.

The following Sections and Committees also benefited directly from the Operating Grant:

- UCLG-ASPAC
- UCLG-MEWA
- METROPOLIS
- Cités Unies Lebanon
- Committee on Development Cooperation and City Diplomacy
- Working Group on Capacity and Institution Building
- Taskforce on Local Government Disaster Response
- Committee on Local Finance and Development
- Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights
- Committee on Culture

As a result, this additional income enabled UCLG to be present at international meetings with a higher level of involvement and to increase the visibility of UCLG.

HUMAN RESOURCES



Greater synergies between the different fields of work

The World Secretariat received support from external coaches to improve cooperation and the exchange of information within the team.

The team was also reinforced in order to ensure greater synergies between the areas of work. This reorganization also enabled it to perform all the activities that a higher budget involves.

Overall coordination and monitoring were established to be able to comply with the

requirements related to the implementation of the Strategic Partnership.

In addition to the strengthening of certain areas, such as communication, new posts were created to ensure links between advocacy, communication and intelligence, as well as between governance and advocacy.



**Local
Voices
for a better
world**

www.bogota2016.uclg.org

#UCLGCongress

#Listen2Cities

#Habitat3

We look forward to seeing you in Bogotá in October 2016 for the UCLG World Congress, which will be a key political moment and a space for local and regional leaders from around the world to come together and share their experiences.



5th UCLG Congress

**WORLD SUMMIT OF LOCAL
AND REGIONAL LEADERS**

12-15 October, **BOGOTA 2016**



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