

PRESSKIT

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**UCLG
CGLU**

**WHY LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS
WILL BE KEY PLAYERS AT COP21**

CLIMATE CHANGE: WHY LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS WILL BE KEY PLAYERS AT COP21

Long Track Record of Local Innovation and International Collaboration Put Local and Regional Authorities in Unique Position to Tackle Causes and Consequences of Climate Change

Milestones on the Way to Paris:

- **2007**
To design and implement a strong global climate group for our post-Kyoto world, local and regional governments adopted the [Local Government Climate Roadmap](#).
[+INFO](#)
- **2009**
To strengthen the **UCLG Climate Negotiation Group**, the **UCLG World Council in Guangzhou** successfully brought together a select team of **cities and regions**.
- **2010**
By signing the Global Cities Covenant on Climate or "[Mexico City Pact](#)," local leaders showed their commitment to comprehensive strategies that can mitigate emissions and help cities adapt to climate change.
[+INFO](#)
- **2010**
To better track climate actions, local governments launched the [carbon Cities Climate Registry](#) (cCCR). This global reporting platform lets cities and local governments display their capacity and potential for reducing climate change risks.
[+INFO](#)
- **2013**
To scale up action towards climate change, the World Mayors Summit on Climate Change in Nantes adopted the [Nantes Declaration of Mayors and Subnational Leaders on Climate Change](#)—reaffirming engagement from local and regional governments towards global climate issues and access to local finance.
[+INFO](#)
- **2014**
Launched at the UN Climate Summit, [the Compact of Mayors](#) is the largest cities initiative for combating climate change. It commits signatories to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, open targets and plans to the public and provide annual progress reports.
[+INFO](#)



Mark the date!

7 December 13:15-14:45

The world's largest coalition on local climate action and towards SDGs/Habitat III
COP 21 venue, Paris Le Bourget, Blue zone. Room 3.
(UNFCCC accreditation required)

■ 2015

The World Summit on Climate and Territories

In July, civil society representatives and local and regional governments from around the world met in Lyon to prepare for COP21. To raise the profile of non-state actors, the Summit highlighted the importance of a territorial approach for dealing with both climate change and sustainability in the run-up to the Climate Summit in Paris. The result? The creation of the **Lyon Declaration**—an unprecedented declaration of support by sub-national governments and civil society for immediate action on climate change.

The Declaration commits all major local government networks to support their members in reducing greenhouse gas emissions between 2020 and 2050. This is in line with the international community's goal to keep global average temperature growth below 2°C. Particular proposals for COP21 negotiations include facilitating local and regional government access to green climate funds.

United Nations Climate Change Conference: COP21

The [21st United Nations Conference on Climate Change](#) (COP21) takes place from 30 November to 11 December at Paris-Le Bourget.

This is a crucial conference for global sustainability. Over the coming years, it aims at achieving the first universal and legally binding agreement to combat climate change and boost the transition to more resilient, low-carbon societies and economies.

How will the agreement achieve these goals? By focusing on mitigation efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, limiting global warming to levels below 2°C and by adapting society to existing changes in our climate. The agreement will enter into force in 2020 and will need to be sustainable in order to guarantee long-term change.

COP21 has already been named as one of the largest climate conferences ever organized. It expects to attract over 50,000 participants including 25,000 official delegates from national and subnational governments, intergovernmental organizations, UN agencies, NGOs and civil society.

The Role of Local and Regional Governments at COP21

Thousands of mayors and local leaders will come together in Paris to strengthen the voices of local and regional governments. In addition to the official Local and Regional Leaders Delegation to COP21, highlights will include a Climate Summit for Local Leaders, meetings of the UCLG World Council and Executive Bureau, a session on Women's Leadership and Development, and a range of parallel events organized by UCLG Committees, members and partners of the Global Taskforce of Local, and Regional Governments.

Workers at the local level know very well that climate change; urban sustainability, gender equality and all other major global development issues are closely interlinked. Policy solutions must reflect this principle. This is why a strong presence from local and regional governments at COP21 is so incredibly important.

Our activity in Paris will showcase the enormous potential of our constituency for implementing practical solutions that can effectively mitigate and adapt to climate change. Our expertise lies in our ability to foster sustainable development – in every form— directly from the ground.

Since access to the conference for non-state actors is limited, local and regional government delegations will follow daily discussions via Member States, and advocate through bilateral meetings and speaking sessions given to Local Authorities and Municipal Governments (LAMG) during plenary sessions.



Mark these dates!

4 Friday December

08:50-09:45 - Tomorrow's climate starts today: high level opening of the Climate Summit for Local Leaders
UCLG / C40 / CEMR
Paris City Hall, Salle des Fêtes

15:30-19:00 Climate Summit for Local Leaders
Paris City Hall, Salon des Arcades & Salle des Fêtes

10:00 - 11:30 - UCLG World Council
Paris City Hall, Saint-Jean Room

5 Saturday December

14:00 -18:00 - UCLG Executive Bureau
Paris City Hall, Saint-Jean Room

8 Tuesday December

10:15-13:30 - Cities Day
COP 21 venue, Paris Le Bourget, Blue Zone (UNFCCC accreditation required)



HOW ARE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY FOR BETTER SUSTAINABILITY?

Increasing Representation of Locally Elected Women and Participation of all Women in Local Decision-Making Supports Gender Equality at International Level



Timeline:

- **1998**
To support women's rights, the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA) adopted the **Worldwide Declaration on Women in Local Government**. This groundbreaking document outlines international principles, commitments and action points for gender equality within local and regional governments.
- **2006**
By drafting the **European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life**, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) encourages local and regional governments to promote gender equality via political participation, employment, public services and urban planning. More than 1400 local and regional governments in 29 countries have already signed the Charter.
- **2013**
The **Paris Local and Regional Government Global Agenda for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life** aims at increasing equality between women and men in all areas of decision-making. Adopted by the Global Conference of Locally Elected Women, the Agenda is inspired by the Worldwide Declaration on Women in Local Government and the European Charter on Equality of Women and Men in Local Life.

UCLG STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENDER EQUALITY



Did you know that in India, research on panchayats (local councils) discovered that there are 62% more drinking water projects in areas with female-led councils than in those with male-led councils? Or that In Norway, there is a direct relationship between the presence of women in municipal councils and childcare coverage?

Key points:

- UCLG is the leading global voice for locally elected women, recognized by national agencies and the UN.
- The Standing Committee on Gender Equality monitors and promotes local participation of women across the world. It believes that the participation of women in local decision-making is the basis of global development.
- Working with locally elected women and grassroots organizations, the committee builds capacity and increases women's representation.

[+INFO](#)



Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris and Chair of the **Standing Committee on Gender Equality of UCLG**, invites all UCLG members, locally elected women and partners to attend this special event. Held within the framework of the UCLG World Council and COP21, the session will bring together elected officials, local government practitioners and associations, as well as key partners of UCLG's work on gender equality.



Mark the date!

6 Sunday December

9:30 - 13:00- Women, leadership and development

Paris City Hall, Conseil de Paris Room



UCLG'S KEY PARTNERS PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Increasingly Urbanized World Sees Rising Concentration of Populations in Cities, Expanding the Impact of Disasters on Human Life, Material Assets and the Economy

Because they are close to their citizens, local governments play a huge role in raising awareness among populations and reducing the risk of disasters. They are also perfectly positioned to spearhead initiatives that collect and disseminate information with partners. For this to be successful, central governments need to embrace the strengths of local governments when drafting national platforms and incorporate cities in the formulation of disaster risk reduction policies.

It is crucial for local governments to adopt local disaster risk reduction strategies. By partnering with central authorities to better define roles and responsibilities, strategies stand a better chance for success.

Milestones:

■ 2005

By approving the [Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015](#) in Kobe, Japan, 168 countries committed to achieving "a substantial reduction in losses to lives and to social, economic and environmental assets whenever hazards strike."

■ 2008

At the World Council in Istanbul, UCLG addressed the theme of disaster risk reduction head-on and adopted a position paper on this theme. The document **binds local authorities across the world with the need to anticipate and reduce disasters, and to act** when faced with humanitarian crises.

UCLG and its partners continue to carry out concrete activities related to disaster risk reduction. These include training sessions, raising awareness of elected officials and experts in Africa, as well as giving support to the [UNISDR "Resilient Cities" Campaign](#). Today, more than 1,000 cities have joined this important initiative to raise awareness about disaster risk reduction.

The **United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction** in Sendai, Japan created a **historic agreement by the international community to reduce disaster risk**. Signed in March 2015, it **recognizes local authorities and the local level as essential agents for success**.

Key points:

- For the first time, local and regional authorities showed the world that they play a crucial role in the process of disaster risk reduction at every level. The [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030](#) mentions local authorities throughout the final text.
- The [Sendai Declaration of Local Authorities](#) reveals the need to connect the Sendai Framework for Action with the fight against poverty, urban agenda, fight against climate change and post-2015 agenda.

GLOBAL LOCAL LEADER NETWORK PROMOTES LOCAL ACTION

"Addressing climate change makes our cities more knowledgeable about their consumption and resilience. The Global Compact is a major enabler for these goals."

Kadir Topbaş, Mayor of Istanbul and President of UCLG at the Post-2015 Summit in New York, September 2015



"To understand the construction of democracy, we need prominent input from women. Our work must focus on presenting concrete proposals that help us alter both our societies and our organizations."

Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris and co-president of UCLG, Chair of the UCLG Standing Committee on Gender Equality

"Territorial actors now play a major role in the fight against climate change. They are the ones who take concrete action on the ground, every single day."

Ronan Dantec, French Senator, Municipal Councilor of Nantes and UCLG Climate spokesman, during the "World Summit on Climate and Territories in Lyon", July 2015



"Territories across the world are commonly affected by the consequences of climate change. Together, elected officials share a closeness to their citizens and the things that affect them on a daily basis. This is why UCLG committed to the fight against climate change many years ago. We take part in coalitions amongst actors, collaborate with the major groups, and bring together representatives of civil society, the private sector, trade unions, and other key actors in this field."

Khalifa Sall, Mayor of Dakar and president of UCLG Africa

"Improving services in rural areas alone is not the answer—cities must do more. Success lies in upgrading services and preparing populations for the threats posed by natural and man-made disasters. This makes the needs of Small Island Developing States particularly important."

Jacqueline Moustache-Belle, UCLG Co-President and Mayor of Victoria, Seychelles



A LOCAL MESSAGE WITH A WORLDWIDE AUDIENCE

Local Governments Making Global Headlines

CITIES AND REGIONS ARE READY TO PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE



1.5 billion tons of CO2. This the current commitment from local authorities towards reducing greenhouse gasses between now and 2020. – Le Monde



WHY CITIES WILL BE VITAL PLAYERS AT PARIS CLIMATE TALKS

Since cities and urban areas hold most of the world's population and contribute to 70 percent of the world's carbon dioxide emissions, they are key contributors to any global success at COP21.
–The Huffington Post



GLOBAL CITIES NETWORK LAUNCHES CLIMATE PLAN FOR COP21

The world's largest network of cities adopted an action plan to tackle climate change at a congress held in South Korea on Friday 10th April.
–Climate Action



EL CAMBIO CLIMÁTICO: RETOS, OPORTUNIDADES Y SOLUCIONES PARA LAS ÁREAS URBANAS

–El País



UCLG, EU AND FOUR OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITY NETWORKS SIGN HISTORIC AGREEMENT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

–Sustainable Cities Collective