12 Nov

The UCLG Learning Forum

#UCLGCongress

Durban 2019
11-15 November

UCLG
CGLU

LOCAL4
ACTION
HUB
by UCLG

8 SALGA
SOUTH AFRICAN LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
Inspiring service delivery

ETHEKWINI
MUNICIPALITY

The UCLG Learning Forum

The UCLG Learning Forum at a glance

Local and regional leaders, have long been aware of our great responsibility for creating better cities and for improving the lives of the people who live in them. The global development agendas provide a good framework to display that it is in towns, cities and territories where development becomes tangible. It is there where equality, prosperity and environmental sustainability will be realized.

Our Learning Strategy for the period 2019-2021 will continue to be inspired and built on Action Learning, dialoguing with the current global agendas and the traditional decentralized cooperation, but always listening to the cities' needs and problems and facilitating actions to improve the local government's policies and public services. It will further seek to strengthen the role of Local Government Associations in learning.

With the main goal of strengthening the role of local and regional governments and their associations in influencing, localizing and monitoring the global development agendas, UCLG has defined a strategy that should help place local governments at the heart of the development agenda. By putting the impact of their actions on global challenges in the spotlight, local authorities should be able to strengthen policy linkages and maximize their efficiency, fostering cooperation and innovation.

Innovation, capacity building, training and assistance are critical parts of this strategy where learning does not only inspire advocacy but where advocacy is also part of the learning process.

A learning network that is fit for purpose

Local governments have been learning from one another for over a hundred years. Learning is in the very DNA of our movement, underpinned by creativity and solidarity. While our history and accumulated know how remain very relevant, our practices are challenged by a changing environment with new players, new instruments and fast changing needs.

UCLG will need to be flexible and foster a learning culture throughout the organization, building on the expertise of the members and grounded on the principles of solidarity, mutual learning and knowledge sharing.

Following a process of consultation between different parts of the global network, that concluded in the UCLG Retreat 2019, the consolidation of UCLG as a learning network will be enhanced by setting up a variety of learning environments to pilot and experiment with innovative methodologies, tools and approaches. This learning environments will rely on the leadership of our constituency, aiming to catalyze innovation and foster cooperation within and outside our network. Learning will be a critical driving force and primary catalyst of implementation of the UCLG Strategy underpinning the development of the Local4Action Hub.

The UCLG Learning Forum

Co-creating our learning environment

The Learning Forum is conceived as an ongoing process in the life of the organization which will crystallize as a space for dialogue and co-creation within our next World Summit.

This platform will define methodologies and mechanisms that will support shaping the visions of the local and regional leaders, supporting them in their role as the sentinels of communities' hopes, dreams and expectations.

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

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

Outcomes

The hands-on exchanges of the Forum will inspire the following key outcomes:

- Assessment of the state of learning within the network

- Inspire the key elements of the UCLG Learning Strategy 2019-2021

- Concrete recommendations to boost the reach of UCLG policies through learning

- Concrete recommendations on innovative learning methodologies and mechanisms

12Nov / Programme

08:30–09:00 **Arrival of participants**

Part One:
Introduction – Setting the context

09:00–09:20	**Opening and welcome**	Presentation of the UCLG Learning Forum
		Brief timeline of the work developed
09:20–09:55	**Ground Rules and Participants Expectations**	Key objectives of the 2019 Learning Forum: Create synergies and nurture our learning network, taking stock of the UCLG Congress
		Expected outcomes (participants)
		Presentation of the ground rules for the sessions

Part Two:
Localizing the global agendas

10:00–11:00	**Taking stock of the work done**	Presentation of key outcomes
		Focus on main challenges and opportunities inspired in the work carried out until now
11:00–11:40	**Learning from an example: Localizing the Sendai Framework**	Showcase of an example of articulation (ASPAC + UNGL + San José + UCLG + UN-Hab.)
		Focus on the process of articulation as inspiration for future modules
11:40–13:00	**Evolution of the modules & methodologies**	What do we need to cover?
		How do we want to cover it?
		How do we further develop the methodologies? (including online)
13:00–15:00	**Lunch**	

Part Three:
Strenghtening the learning agenda through peer-to-peer & decentralized cooperation

15:00–16:00	**Key components to nurture the learning agenda**	Reflection on the process and challenges identified by UCLG-Africa
		Reflection on the process and lessons learnt identified by a city (Brazil-Mozambique)
		Reflection on the process and key needs identified by LRGA
16:00–17:00	**Dialogue between mechanisms: how can we ensure transferability?**	Coordination between mechanisms of learning.
		Observatories as repositories of local practices
		How can we generate a dialogue? What do we need from each other?
17:00–18:00	**The way ahead?**	How do we tackle the challenges and needs?
		How do we further develop methodologies to strengthen peer-to-peer learning