

HISTORY IN THE MAKING



EDITORIAL



The fourth United Cities and Local Governments Congress and World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders will take place in Rabat, Morocco and will mark nine years of History for our World Organization. This occasion will equally mark the centennial celebration of the municipal, regional and international movement that began in 1913 during the International Congress of Cities in Ghent, Belgium.

To celebrate our centenary, we have retraced the activities and achievements of UCLG since its creation in 2004. This nine year History illustrates the accomplishments of the international movement of local and regional governments.

From the outset, solidarity, learning and peace have been the core values that have fuelled the existence and development of our global movement. Today, as local and regional authorities face new challenges, these values are as relevant as ever and should remain at the heart of our movement.

This publication seeks to provide an outline of our accomplishments, the construction of our Organization, the development of our ties with partners and local, regional and international networks and the reinforcement of our voice before international and UN institutions.

Since 2004, cities and regions have unrelentingly joined efforts to reaffirm their key positions and proposals and have obtained increased recognition in

international negotiations, in particular in terms of decentralization, sustainable development and development aid.

Today, over half of the world's population lives in cities and tomorrow's world is increasingly urban, United Cities and Local Governments continue to advocate for a strengthened concept of governance of proximity throughout all regions of the world. It calls for recognition of an integrated territorial approach that promotes cohesion and solidarity for adequately resourced local and regional authorities able to serve the citizens to whom they are accountable. UCLG further strives to achieve global recognition of the role that local democratic governance plays in fostering peace throughout the world.

As we work on the Post 2015 development agenda, United Cities and Local Governments continues to advocate for local and regional governments to be recognized as essential actors on the international development scene. Members of UCLG are further committed to enabling communities are driven by solidarity and are resilient, inclusive, sustainable and smart.

This publication should give UCLG members and partners the opportunity to reflect on the path that has been trodden since the creation of the World Organization ten years ago and allow them to visualise a possible international roadmap of local and regional governments in the years to come.

We hope that this publication will inspire you and guide our joint next steps.

The UCLG Presidency

THE PROMISING EARLY STAGES

MAY - FOUNDING CONGRESS IN PARIS

The **Founding Congress in Paris** saw the biggest gathering ever of mayors, councillors and elected representatives of cities and regional governments to officially create the world organization "United Cities and Local Governments", with the mission of representing and defending the interest of local governments on the world stage.

> CO-PRESIDENCY 2004-2007

BERTRAND DELANOË, Mayor of Paris

SMANGALISO MKHATSHWA, Mayor of Tshwane-Pretoria

MARTA SUPLICY, Mayor of Sao Paulo

CLARENCE ANTHONY, Mayor of South Bay
as Elected Treasurer.

MAY

An unprecedented framework agreement was signed between UCLG and the **World Bank** in order to collaborate in fighting poverty and improving the living standards of people in the developing world.



JUNE

The **Cardoso Report** on United Nations-Civil Society Relations recommended that "the United Nations should regard UCLG as an advisory body on governance matters". Although never officially implemented this recommendation gave new strength to the voice of local authorities before the UN Agencies.



2004

OCTOBER
EB in Sao Paulo



MAY



Being the first document in the world which links culture with local governance, the **Agenda 21 for Culture** was agreed in May 2004 by 198 cities, local governments from all over the world to enshrine their commitment to human rights, cultural diversity and participatory democracy.

SEPTEMBER

The longstanding relation between UN-Habitat

and local government movement was further strengthened through the signing of an agreement of cooperation to promote the adoption of international policies on decentralisation.



MARCH

The **United Nations recognised at the Beijing+10** review that increased participation of women in local decision making is a strategic factor for the achievement of gender equality. UCLG further advocated for the percentage of seats held by women in local government bodies to be recognised as a Millennium Development Goal indicator.

AUGUST

At the **Millennium +5 Summit** in New York, the United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan and the President of the United Nations General Assembly Jan Eliasson met a UCLG Mayors' delegation. The final declaration recognises local authorities as actors in the achievement of the

Millennium Development Goals. Cities, regions and associations mobilised to contribute to tackling global challenges with a clear local impact:

- Over one thousand cities and local government associations joined high-profile **UCLG Millennium Towns and Cities Campaign**

and white banners were displayed on local government buildings across the world.

- Hundreds of cities joint **"STOP AIDS. Make the Promise"** and coordinated their events on the international AIDS day.



MDGs Campaign: Paris - Buenos Aires - Rome

2005

JUNE WC in Beijing

JUNE · WORLD COUNCIL IN BEIJING

The first **Committees and Working groups** of UCLG were established and opened the door for cities, local governments and their associations. Today, over 18 different topics are covered by the Committees and Working Groups.



JUNE

Local Governments are given an advisory role at the UN. UCLG holds the majority of seats in the **United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA)**.

NOVEMBER

The digital divide was addressed by local governments before the international community. **The Bilbao Declaration** included 10 principles focusing on the universal access to information and the fight against all forms of discrimination in the use of information technologies.

THE GROWING MOMENTUM

FEBRUARY EXECUTIVE BUREAU IN WASHINGTON

At the UCLG Executive Bureau meetings in Washington, the **World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz** expressed the interest of the World Bank in strengthening relations with UCLG and committed in developing new instruments to support city development.



MARCH · EXECUTIVE BUREAU IN PARIS

Local governments raised awareness on the **impact of climate change on cities and their inhabitants.**

Over 250 mayors and local governments' leaders showed how the world's cities, regardless of their geographic location, are obliged to manage the consequences of this challenge. The Paris Declaration therefore encouraged cities to set up plans and studies to assess the impact of climate change in urban areas.

APRIL

The **International Guidelines on Decentralisation** constituted an important step forward towards the adoption of an international legal framework on decentralisation. For the first time ever, the decentralisation process was at the forefront of international policies.

OCTOBER

UCLG constituted the first ever comprehensive study project on the state of decentralisation by setting up the **Global Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralisation (GOLD)**. The report put an emphasis on the contemporary situation of local governments in all regions of the world and demonstrated the progress of local autonomy throughout the world during the two previous decades.



2006

OCTOBER
WC in
Marrakech

2007

MARCH

Governments of the world acknowledged that local authorities play a major role in delivering sustainable access to water and to sanitation services, and in supporting integrated water resource management. The Declaration of the Local Governments of UCLG was included in the final declaration of the **World Forum on Water** in March 2006, Mexico.



OCTOBER · 2nd CONGRESS IN JEJU

At the **Second World Congress of UCLG** organised in Jeju (South Korea), around 2,000 mayors and local governors gathered to discuss the consequences of urban expansion, cooperation with regions and the challenges for the City of tomorrow.

The **Policy Paper on Local Finance** was approved.



➤ **UCLG PRESIDENCY 2007-2010:**
BERTRAND DELANOË
Mayor of Paris, France

➤ CO-PRESIDENTS

ZHANG GUANGNING
Mayor of Guangzhou, People's Republic of China

AMOS MASONDO
Mayor of Johannesburg, South Africa

PACO MONCAYO
Mayor of Quito, Ecuador

KADIR TOPBAŞ
Mayor of Istanbul, Turkey

CLARENCE ANTHONY
Mayor of South Bay, Florida, USA was elected as UCLG Treasurer.

Cities Alliance

Cities Without Slums

UCLG stood at the forefront on slum upgrading. The World Organization became for the next three years the Chair of the Executive Committee of **Cities Alliance**, a unique partnership coordinated by UN Habitat and the World Bank and gathering the main international donors.

SEPTEMBER

2008 also saw the strengthening of ties with other networks, especially those such as ICLEI and the C40, working in the field of Climate Change. Together with them, UCLG prepared and launched the **'World Mayors and Local Governments Climate Protection Agreement'**, to enable its members to express their commitment, and developed a roadmap for local authorities for Bali-Poznan Copenhagen.

SEPTEMBER

Local governments expressed their will for a deeper commitment on conflict prevention, postconflict reconstruction and peace building.

The **Hague Agenda for City Diplomacy** developed a concrete work programme for local and regional authorities on the international scene.

2008

JUNE
EB in Quito

SEPTEMBER

UCLG became a stakeholder in the international Forum on aid effectiveness. Notably, UCLG became member of the advisory group of the **UN First Forum for Development Cooperation** in New York, and participated in the Third OECD **High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness** in Accra. We made the case to the international community for the greater involvement of cities and regions in the development, implementation and monitoring of aid policies.



NOVEMBER

Platforma, under the aegis of the CEMR, European section of UCLG, was created to facilitate dialogue between the European institutions and local and regional authorities.

NOVEMBER WORLD COUNCIL IN ISTANBUL

The **Policy Paper on Social Inclusion**, adopted by the World Council of UCLG in November, set out the first global political guidelines on local public policies for social inclusion.



THE ACHIEVEMENTS YEARS

APRIL

The adoption of the **International Guidelines of Access to Basics Services** was a major step forward towards the recognition of Local Authorities' contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.



JUNE · EXECUTIVE BUREAU IN COPENHAGEN

The local governments spoke with one voice during the COP 15 on Climate Change, thanks to the **Local Government Climate Change Leadership Summit** gathered by UCLG and partners in June.



2009

APRIL

Local and Regional Authorities stressed their role for peace and dialogue at the Second Forum of the **UN Alliance of Civilizations**



NOVEMBER · WORLD COUNCIL IN GUANGZHOU

The World Council of UCLG adopted unanimously in November 2009 the **UCLG Position Paper on Aid Effectiveness and Local Government**, which highlights the contribution of Local and Regional Authorities in the field of aid and development through decentralized cooperation and peer to peer partnerships. It is also a call from Local Authorities for Aid Effectiveness to not be a pretext for the international community to further centralize aid resources and policies.



MAY-OCTOBER

At the occasion of the **Shanghai World Expo**, whose theme was "Better City Better Life", UCLG had unprecedented presence of a global organization of cities, towns and regions in a Universal Exposition.



APRIL EB in Chicago

2010

JUNE

The challenges of development cannot be solved without the knowledge, expertise and endowment of local and regional governments, legitimate actors on the ground. This was the message delivered by UCLG during the **Forum on Cooperation and Development** strong accountable local governance is an effective accelerator of development.

NOVEMBER · 3rd CONGRESS IN MEXICO



From 16th to 20th November, the **Third Congress of UCLG – First World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders** takes place in Mexico City.

The aim of the Summit was to discuss the critical issues facing our world and each continent and to agree on a set of initiatives, priorities and actions. The Summit addressed three main themes, all of which were connected: Global crises: Local Impacts; The City of 2030; Local and Regional Governments – Partners in the new Global Governance.

➤ **With more than 60 areas on the agenda, 18 Commissions and Working Groups and constant growing memberships,** UCLG reached its cruising speed. It is time for its members to redefine their objectives for the coming years and to rethink the challenges for the City of 2030.



The **Policy Paper on Urban Strategic Planning** and important decisions on **Culture** and on **Human Rights in the City** were approved. **GOLD II**, the Second World Report of UCLG on Local Democracy and Decentralisation, focusing on Local Finances, was also presented.

This Congress represented a new start for the World Organization, with the elections of new governing bodies and new Presidency.

➤ **PRESIDENCY 2010-2013:**

KADIR TOPBAŞ
Mayor of Istanbul, Turkey

➤ **CO-PRESIDENTS**

JOHNNY ARAYA
Mayor of San José, Costa Rica

ANTONIO COSTA
Mayor of Lisbon, Portugal

MUCHADEYI MASUNDA
Mayor of Harare, Zimbabwe

ILSUR METSHIN
Mayor of Kasan, Russia

WAN QINGLIANG
Vice-President of the Association of Chinese Mayors

TED ELLIS
Mayor of Bluffton, United States, is the Treasurer

RECENT WORK BUILDING ON OUR HISTORY

MARCH

During the 4th High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan (South Korea), UCLG called for greater recognition of the role of local and regional governments as **development actors**, based on the UCLG Position Paper on Aid Effectiveness.



APRIL

Former Mayor of Barcelona and founding father of UCLG, Joan Clos, was appointed Executive Director of UN-Habitat during the Steering Committee of UN Agencies in Nairobi. **Decisive resolutions** were adopted, in-line with the Guidelines on Access to Basic Services and the role of cities in the sustainability agenda.

JUNE EXECUTIVE BUREAU IN RABAT

The Executive Bureau gathered in Rabat (Morocco), approved the creation of the **Standing Committee on Gender Equality** in order to strengthen the promotion of women in local decision making. **Josep Roig was nominated Secretary General of UCLG.**

2011

DECEMBER WC in Florence

MAY

President of UCLG, Kadir Topbaş, met Secretary General of United Nations, Ban Ki-moon and called for a special status to be granted to UCLG before the General Assembly of the United Nations. He invited the Secretary General to organise a high level meeting with UCLG on the Role of Cities in Development.



DECEMBER

During the World Council in Florence (Italy), 700 local and regional elected representatives adopted a **New Strategy for 2010-2016** and highlighted the contribution of local and regional authorities to the international debate on sustainability and **Rio+20** and defined of the agenda for the coming 6 years. The **World Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City** was adopted seeking to be a tool for local governments to build more inclusive and dynamic societies characterized by solidarity.



MARCH

During the World Water Forum, 300 local elected representatives participated in the **Local Authorities Days** co-organised by UCLG and the World Water Council. A renewed impetus of life was given to the Istanbul Water Consensus.



MAY

In the context of the Arab Springs and the new local governance in Southern Mediterranean countries, UCLG co-organised the Conference on **Decentralization Support in Tunisia** to ensure that local authorities were not forgotten in the constitutional process and called for parliamentarians to include local authorities in the drafting process of the Constitution.

2012



APRIL



UCLG convenes all the networks at the United Nations Headquarter. During the high level session, the Secretary General of United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, welcomed Local and Regional Authorities and their network partners who presented their key messages and **concrete recommendations with view to the Rio+20 Summit.**

JUNE

The Outcome document adopted at Rio+20 recognized for the first time the key role of local and regional governments in the international sustainability agenda. The role of local and subnational governance was explicitly mentioned in addition to the work conducted on water management, disaster risk prevention, and gender equality. Explicit recognition of the Habitat agenda was also an important achievement.



TOWARDS RECOGNITION

SEPTEMBER

200 local elected representatives came together at the World Urban Forum in Naples (Italy) and committed to revising the international governance architecture and to actively contribute to the definition of a **New Urban Habitat Agenda**. UCLG called all partners to unite and define the priorities of local and regional authorities on the international scene.



NOVEMBER



The first **UCLG International Prize for Urban Innovation** organized by the **City of Guangzhou** compiled twenty high quality projects for sustainable cities, good management of public services, and economic and urban innovation. 255 projects were received and **5 finalists**: Kocaeli (Turkey), Lilongwe (Malawi), Seoul (South Korea), Vancouver (Canada), Vienna (Austria) were announced during award ceremony in Guangzhou counting with over 800 participants among which the President of UCLG, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat and the Mayor of Guangzhou.

DECEMBER WC in Dakar

SEPTEMBER

The President of UCLG was appointed **member of the High Level Panel for the Post 2015 Development Agenda**. During the Panel meeting he confirmed his commitment to ensuring that the diverse voices of local and regional authorities reach the Panel through his contributions. UCLG raised awareness among the Panel on the need to address inequalities importance of territorial approach and planning, among others urban planning.



DECEMBER

The New Development Agenda was at the heart of the UCLG World Council in Dakar (Senegal), organized in parallel with the Africities Summit. The **Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments** was created in order to revise the Millennium Development Goals and the World Organization adopted the Policy Paper on Cooperation and Development, calling for sufficient financing to allow local authorities to participate in cooperation and development. The first **World Forum of Regions** brought together around one hundred regional and local elected representatives and defined a shared roadmap to ensure that regions have the best possible representation in the forthcoming international agenda.



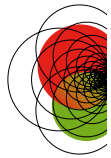
JANUARY

Paris Local and Regional Governments Global Agenda for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life was adopted during the Global Conference of Local Elected Women that brought over 400 participants from 60 countries together in Paris (France). The Paris Agenda has become a strategic instrument to promote gender equality in all spheres of decision making. On this occasion, **UCLG and UN-Women signed an agreement** reinforcing their contribution.



MARCH

Local and regional government organizations gathered under the Global Taskforce for the Post 2015 process in Istanbul (Turkey) at the invitation of the UCLG President, fully committed to end all forms of extreme poverty in the context of sustainable development and to contribute to the implementation of the building blocks for sustainable prosperity for all. Local and regional governments called for **one single and universal development agenda** and highlighted the need for the new agenda to focus on the human element and give particular attention to the actors and institutions that construct sustainability and prosperity.



GLOBAL TASKFORCE
OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS
FOR POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA
TOWARDS HABITAT III

The Mediterranean Committee organized the **3rd Forum of Local and Regional Authorities of the Mediterranean** in Marseille. 400 local and regional elected official and policy makers debated on the democratic governance in the Mediterranean.



2013



APRIL



The Third World Report on Local Democracy and Decentralization, GOLD III, presents the state of local authorities on the state of **local basic services** in various regions of the world. 9 workshops were held in all regions of the world bringing together 300 participants from 82 countries to evaluate the progress made by authors.

MAY

The Global Taskforce celebrated a 2nd meeting on 28 May in New York in order to present **the joint strategy on the role of cities and sub-national governments in the future international agenda on sustainable development** to missions of member states and to high officials of the UN. The meeting will take place at the UN Headquarters and counts with the support of UN-Habitat and the participation of numerous UN-agencies and 23 ambassadors. It will be in conjunction with the last meeting of the High Level Panel which will provide the opportunity to HLP members and representatives to attend.

The High Level Panel report explicitly recognized the **crucial role of local authorities in sustainable development**, urban planning and poverty eradication.

The European Commission's Communication on the partnership between the European Union and local and regional authorities in partner countries took stock, for the first time, of the potential of cities and regions in the implementation of sustainable public policies to eradicate poverty and considered the need to **strengthen decentralization** and the **territorial development approach** and **decentralized cooperation**.

JUNE

Before the **UN General Assembly**, UCLG, represented by the city of Montréal, recommended the inclusion in the Post 2015 development agenda of a specific objective based on culture and launched a call for a greater collaboration between **actors in culture and sustainable development**.

JUNE · EXECUTIVE BUREAU IN LYON

For the first time in the history of UCLG, an Executive Bureau was hosted jointly by a city and a region: Lyon and Rhône-Alpes. Faced with the dramatic situation in Syria, members of UCLG sent a **message of support and solidarity to local authorities in Syria**. The second World Forum of Regions brought together regional governments with view to increasing their voice on the international agenda. The decision was taken to create a **Section of Regional Authorities** that will build on the existing partnership with ORU-FOGAR.



RABAT
2013
1-4 OCTOBER

OCTOBER · 4th CONGRESS IN RABAT

The 4th UCLG World Congress, second edition of the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders, is organized for the first time on the African continent, in Rabat (Morocco).

The Congress aims at defining the roadmap of local and regional governments towards **Habitat III** and toward the **new Development Agenda**.

“IMAGINE SOCIETY, BUILD DEMOCRACY”

Local and regional leaders as well as their partners organizations will debate and define their agenda on key topics, such as: Governance and Local Democracy, Wellbeing, Diversity and Solidarity among Territories. The Third World Report on Local Democracy and Decentralization, dedicated to access to basic services, will be presented during the Congress.

2013-2016

FOCUSING THE UCLG AGENDA

THE POST-2015
Development
Agenda

2016:
HABITAT III

The future
local and regional
governments want!



UCLG

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