



# UCLG ANNUAL REPORT 2021



The power of we,  
an organization that cares



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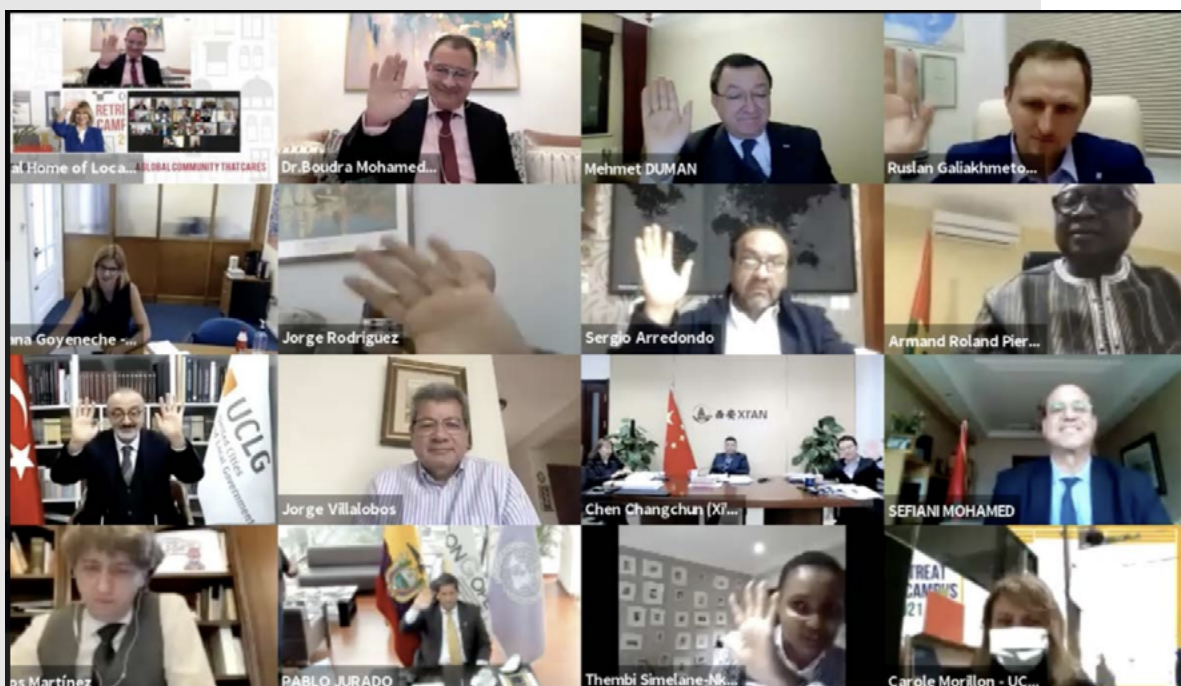
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## THE POWER OF WE, AN ORGANIZATION THAT CARES



2021 has been a seminal year for the world Organization. UCLG entered the year with a renewed mandate, adopted by the UCLG World Council in November 2020: to pursue the Pact for the future as the way to renew our strategy and ensure a safe, equitable and resilient recovery and a world that cares for its communities.

Following the mandate from the World Council in 2020, which set us on a path to develop a far-reaching Pact and building on the values that have given shaped to our UCLG Decalogue for the COVID era and the Rome Charter, UCLG has worked during the entire year to answer the question of what it means to be an organization that cares. The “power of we”, explored early in the year, has been evolving steadily during the year, bringing the dimension of care to all of our work areas, to the global narrative of the world organization, and to how we communicate ourselves to the world.

The need to develop an equitable recovery, the year 2030 in the horizon, and recent milestones such as the development of the UNSG’s Our Common Agenda are calling on our World Organization to think beyond a six-year period, and to renew itself in a way that can respond to the needs of our communities for the coming decade. The undertaking is immense, and it is in this context that our World Council, the first one to take place in a hybrid format, took place.

Through the three axes of the Pact (people, planet, and government), UCLG is aiming to renew the social contract, to pave the way to achieve the goals we set by bringing to the forefront a feminist way of thinking and doing politics, a new relationship with the planet, and with municipalism and local democracy as the lever for global decision-making.





## THE POWER OF WE

### UCLG AS A PLATFORM OF PLATFORMS

The “power of we” is the strength of the municipal movement to deliver and respond to the challenges of the implementation decade. The only way we can break through: developing a pact for the future of humanity, localizing the universal agendas, and ensuring the delivery of public services to bring about transformation. The “power of we” lives in how we work, daily, as a world organization. We care, we act, we advocate, we research, we learn, and we meet for a better world.



# The Power of We



#### People



About people lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, sit amet consectetur adipiscing elit.

[Read more](#)

#### Government



About people lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, sit amet consectetur adipiscing elit.

[Read more](#)

#### Planet



About people lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, sit amet consectetur adipiscing elit.

[Read more](#)

**We advocate** for a world in which local and regional governments, and the communities that they represent, are a **part of the decision-making table** to bring about transformation.

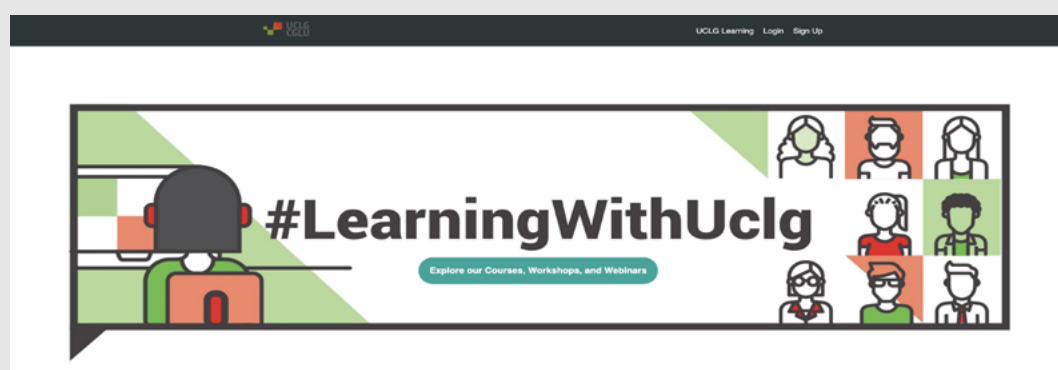
**We care** means bringing people to the centre of our efforts. It is the core of our values as a movement, following the calls of the Durban Political Declaration. Through solidarity, people-centred planning, and a feminist way of doing politics, **we act** based on these principles, placing our **policymaking** to ensure the essential protection of the commons at the core of service provision to build a new social contract that cares about people.

**We meet** throughout the year bringing care to our meetings, ensuring that all of our members can share their expertise, feel at home, and co-create our work.

**We listen to**, and build strengthened partnerships with the international community. Through our **#CitiesAreListening** Experiences and our collaborations with partners from the private sector and the civil society, we follow our mandate that came out of Durban, and strengthen our Town Hall.

**We research** to develop pathways for an equitable and sustainable future. Our 6th Global Report on Local Democracy and Decentralization is focusing on the “pathways to urban and territorial inequalities”. With participation of different parts of the network as well as academia, and civil society organizations, we are researching as one for a more egalitarian world.

Drawing on members’ experience and mechanisms, both in 2021 and beyond, **we learn** by developing tools, activities, and modules to learn together and re-embrace localization, with the on-line Platform **#LearningwithUCLG** at the centre, aiming at fostering connection of local practices to the global agendas. The training of trainers and peer learning among members are also indispensable parts of the work in this area.

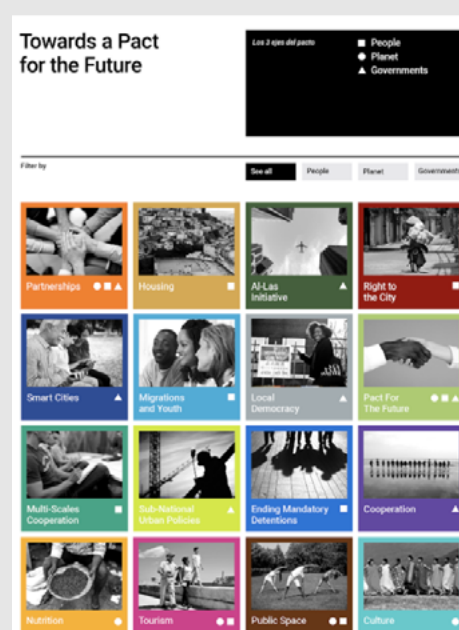


The statutory and communication teams are putting their efforts in developing new platforms that will allow enhanced communication among members and renewed visibility towards partners. The development of **UCLGMeets.org** and working on the backstage of the UCLG as Platform of Platforms have been the critical focus this year, gearing towards renewed hybrid work in 2022, our Congress year.



The links between the work of the different UCLG Consultation Mechanisms, in particular the Policy Councils and Committees, is being brought to fruition around the **#CitiesAreListening** Experiences, but also in relation to consultations contributing to all work areas.

Dynamic exchanges among members, through webinars and joint statements have been powered by the World Secretariat with over 30 sessions which have mobilized over 3,000 participants, with over 150 gathering physically in **Kütahya and Izmir**.



**WE CARE  
FOR THE  
PEOPLE**

## **BRINGING THE NEW ESSENTIALS TO LIFE**

We are moving from inclusion to care. We are moving from equality to a new feminist way of doing politics: a governance with empathy, which prioritizes the commons in direct response to the needs and aspirations of people. Caring for people means defining our future with, for, and by our communities, ensuring the sacrifices made now will reflect on a better life for future generations. This shift towards a brighter future needs to be a collective effort that facilitates access to basic services and the defense of the rights of our communities.

### **An Equality Driven Movement**

The notion of feminist leadership driven by equality with empathy, care and proximity at the core, are part of the renewed vision for the municipal movement. Cohesion and increased solidarity among territories are also components of the better normal, which will need to be underpinned by renewed governance at all levels and revisited democracy that will prevent the backlogs around authoritarianism that we are observing in some parts of the world and contribute to peace.



**We Care.  
Government.**

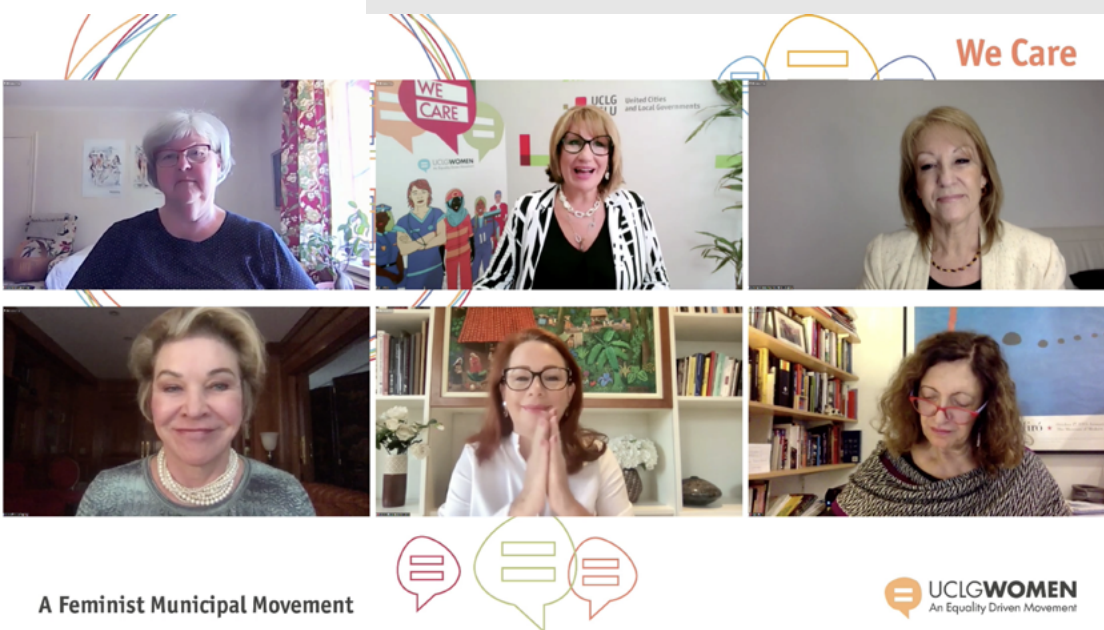


### **A Feminist way of doing local politics**

Building on UCLG efforts to promote gender equality, local and regional governments gathered throughout March and July around the co-creation and promotion of a global feminist municipalism movement. UCLG facilitated the participation and active contributions of members

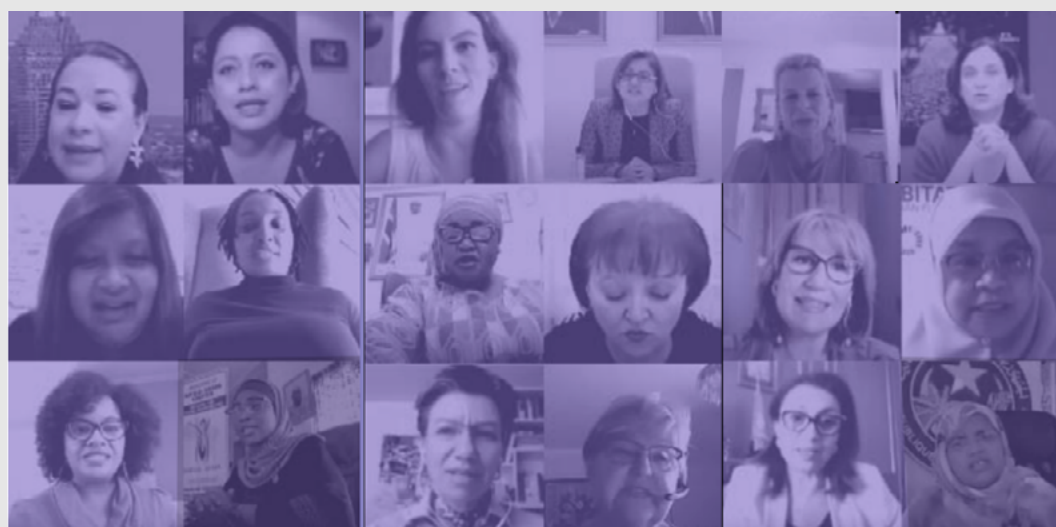


and the constituency at the meetings of the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65) and **Generation Equality Forums in Mexico and in Paris.**



Messages presented included the need to set the care for the people and planet at the center, strengthening local public service provision and enhancing the participation and decision-making of women, girls, and feminist leaders.

Building on the results of the Generation Equality Forum in Paris, UCLG will continue to raise the profile and advocate for further inclusion and recognition of the key role played by local and regional governments for gender equality.



UCLG assesses that further engagement of the constituency in the multilateral processes regarding gender equality is required, especially in follow-up to the Generation Equality Forums, for example via the Action Coalitions, the Global Acceleration Plan on Gender Equality, or the Global Alliance for Care.

## Cities and territories that guarantee accessibility for all

Following the strategic recommendations from the political document and debate on inclusive and accessible cities during the 2019 World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders, UCLG has measurably increased the global recognition of the role of local and regional governments towards the protection of human rights and the realization of the principle of Leave No One Behind.



In 2020, UCLG identified and mobilized local leaders committed to equity, human rights and participation through a series of events within the framework of the Live Learning Experiences and the Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. These events reinforced the necessary role that local and regional governments hold in promoting global human rights and development frameworks. Clear commitments were made to support local and regional governments in their efforts to reduce inequalities by stakeholders representing national governments, civil society, the United Nations, and multilateral development banks.

In line with our policy roadmap and outcomes of the dialogues in 2020, UCLG held the inaugural meeting of the Community of Practice on Inclusive and Accessible Cities and Territories in April of 2021. The meeting identified clear priority areas developed in the Town Hall process of Durban and reinforced the commitment and call from members for

more capacity building tools, knowledge exchange and data to better understand and address universal accessibility in their policies and programs.



Through our strategic partnership with the UN Special Envoy on Accessibility and Disability, World Enabled and the World Blind Union, UCLG has measurably increased the global recognition of the role of local and regional governments towards the protection of human rights and the realization of the principle of Leave No One Behind in global forum this year that include during the **14th Session of the Conference of States Parties (COSP)** to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the World Blindness Summit and the High Level Political Forum.

#### 13th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the UNCRPD High Level Side Event

A purple graphic for a 'Universal Accessibility' event. It features several white icons: an eye, a hand, a speaker, a smiley face, a person, a bridge, clouds, and a building. The text 'UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY' is in large white letters, followed by 'Pillar and Bridge for Human Rights and Sustainable Development' in smaller white letters. At the bottom, there are logos for 'Disability Accessibility Special Envoy UN-SG' and 'UCLG CGLU United Cities and Local Governments'.

**UNIVERSAL ACCESSIBILITY**  
Pillar and Bridge for Human Rights and Sustainable Development

Disability Accessibility  
Special Envoy  
UN-SG

UCLG  
CGLU  
United Cities  
and Local Governments



## A Charter to shift minds and management around Migration

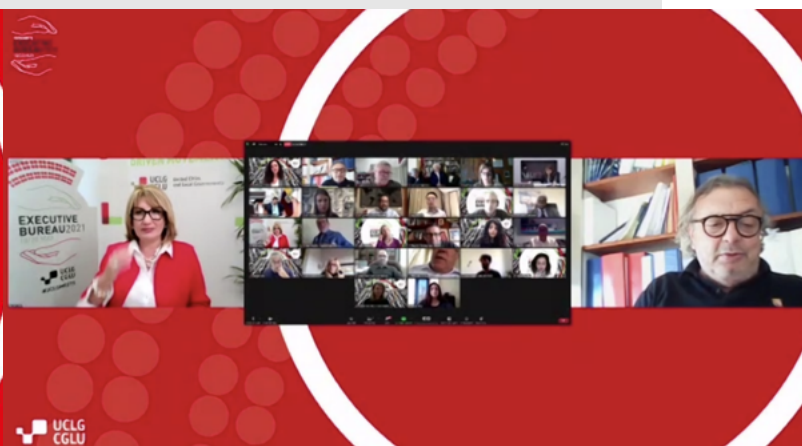
In connection with global agendas on migration governance and with the construction of the UCLG Pact for People proposed at the World Council in Guangzhou, Lampedusa has brought to the Policy Council on the Right to the City and Inclusive Territories a proposal to co-create the Lampedusa Charter on human mobility and peace.

The Lampedusa Charter, which ratifies the commitment of local governments to ensure the protection of human rights, dignity, diversity and equal opportunities, will be the culmination of a growing local commitment to a new global narrative of human mobility. The process will seek to consolidate the vision of our Pact for the People on human mobility and diversity, following a series of consultations with Policy Councils, Regional Sections and strategic partners ahead of the official launch in December 2021.

As part of the Lampedusa Charter Process, UCLG was a part of the commemoration of the 2021 Memory Day in Lampedusa, commemorating the more than 15.000 lost migrant lives in the Mediterranean. **Med Aydi Wajdi**, Vice Mayor of Sfax, **Totò Martello**, Mayor of Lampedusa,



zoom



UCLG  
CGLU

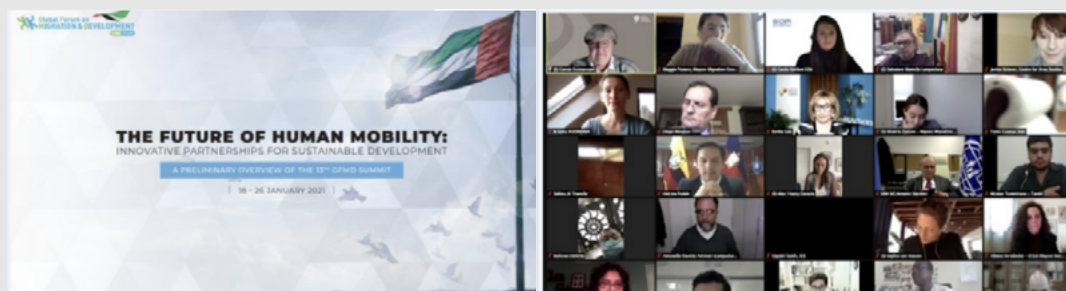


inaugurated the “Peace Walk”, a symbolic turning point towards a joint municipalist effort to promote human-rights based approaches to human mobility as part of the Lampedusa Charter Process.

UCLG published an article in the Spanish newspaper “El País” reminding of the potential that local and regional governments in managing migration and how, in spite of local governments not having borders, they are affected by national borders. The **#NotABorderTale** campaign emphasizes that the situation in Lampedusa is but a solitary example of the situations in which crises become normality, with echoes in countries such as Poland or Mexico, calling as a single municipal movement to develop a new framework based on participatory solutions to global crises.

As a member of the Steering Committee of the Mayors’ Mechanism together with International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Council of Mayors for Migration (CMM), UCLG has facilitated the presence of its regional sections and over 100 local governments at the various regional consultations of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), as well as at the GFMD Summit.

Under the Chairmanship of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the GFMD Summit gathered over 2000 participants virtually to discuss complex issues such as gaps in migrant protection, labour migration, and irregular migration. Over 840 national government representatives from 116 States attended. The GFMD Mayors Mechanism secured access for over 90 local and regional governments to join the discussions as active participants, including 25 local leaders as official panellists speaking in 18 of the Summit’s formal events.



In the field of city-to-city cooperation, through the MC2CM project and the Cities Are Listening process, UCLG has continued to promote the exchange of practices and peer learning on issues such as **children**, **local citizenship** or **gender** aspects of human mobility. Following the Beyond The Outbreak Live Learning Experience on Migration, a policy study was released on **migrant sensitive responses to COVID-19**.

In addition, as part of the Co-Chairmanship of the GFMD Working Group on Migration Narratives, formed by the Mayors' Mechanism (UCLG, IOM, MMC) and the Governments of Canada and Ecuador, UCLG has contributed to the conception and launch of the **"It Takes a Community" global campaign**, to promote a fair narrative on human mobility.



**GFMD Mayors Mechanism**

**“**

Migration builds communities and hence human mobility should be perceived naturally as positive

**Emilia Sáiz,**  
Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

*Let's Talk Migration: Local and National Leaders Chat # 1, 9 July 2021*

**MMC**  
Mayors Migration Council

**UCLG**  
United Cities and Local Governments

**IOM** 70 YEARS  
UN MIGRATION

IT TAKES A COMMUNITY

IT TAKES A  
COMMUNITY TO  
LISTEN

#Ittakesacomunity

## UCLG cares for healthy populations and societies Universal health coverage

The pandemic has underscored that we are only as strong as those most vulnerable among us. The rise of inequities has taken a new dimension with the difficulty of equal access to vaccinations, and the different speed at which the recovery takes place in rich and poor countries calls on us to defend the importance of equal access to health and healthy cities.

Building on this necessity, UCLG has joined the Call for Vaccine Equity, led by the World Health Organization (WHO), to ensure an equitable





recovery around the world, especially for the workers on the frontline. WHO has also called for the release of vaccine patents as a way to level the playing field when facing COVID-19 and crises.



UCLG has been a part of the Urban Preparedness Working Group, a series of virtual meetings aiming to advance health emergency preparedness in cities and other urban settings beyond COVID-19, from January to April 2021, led by the World Health Organization.

The virtual meetings brought technical experts at national and local government levels to discuss how the experiences and lessons learned from COVID-19 in cities and urban settings should shape the way forward for the strengthening of preparedness for future health emergencies.

UCLG brought experiences from local and regional governments to the table. The deliberations from the Working Group are a part of a technical guide, titled “Advancing health emergency preparedness in cities and urban settings in COVID-19 and beyond”.

Linking the UCLG agenda with that of Universal Health Coverage has been a natural evolution of our political positioning. With this in mind, UCLG has started the process to become a full member of UHC2030, and to mainstream healthcare and health in cities in its narrative and its political agenda, building on our previous work with the Movement and, in particular, our joint dialogues in the framework of the 2020 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) and our joint campaigns around World Health Day.

Access to health and healthcare for all people needs to go hand-in-hand with the transformation of the multilateral system. UCLG was a part of the “state of commitment to universal health coverage”, a document led by UHC2030 that gathered key targets, commitments, and actions in the



declaration on Universal Healthcare, by delivering political statements on the importance to strengthen regulations around healthcare, and focusing on the importance of multilateral efforts to invest in primary healthcare and building multi-stakeholder partnerships on health.

With the growth of urbanization being one of the key challenges of the urban era, the World Health Organization has been mandated to develop an Urban Health Research Agenda (UHRA) to push for evidence-based solutions to promote health and wellbeing in urban environments. UCLG has been involved in consultations with the WHO to bring the local visions to the UHRA, ensuring that the full agenda reflects priorities from all stakeholders and the importance of aspects such as health beyond healthcare.

UCLG is also beginning to explore partnerships with important stakeholders on health in cities and territories, such as the City Cancer Challenge.

## Our Rights Agenda

As we rethink the new essentials, we need to consider the renewal and the next generation of human rights. Through our work with UN Human Rights, our focus on the Rome Charter, and our endeavours on digital rights we aim to redefine essential rights and ensure that no-one is left behind in the post-COVID era.



## Our human rights roadmap, powered by the Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights.

The **human rights roadmap** of UCLG has been strengthened through collaborations between UCLG, the members of the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion (CSIPDHR), and UN Human Rights (OHCHR in particular). A consultation on the Myanmar crisis co-organized by the UCLG-CSIPDHR brought together representatives of the UCLG and Committee leadership with the OHCHR High Commissioner.

Following up on its Annual Meeting held during the UCLG Executive Bureau, members of the UCLG-CSIPDHR are advancing a comprehensive roadmap on human rights based on: a follow-up process to the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City based on member and partner consultation; an international campaign to support the human rights cities movement; and an e-learning strategy reflecting members' policy experience on human rights.



# Human Rights

Work Areas / Human Rights / Local governments and human rights

## 01

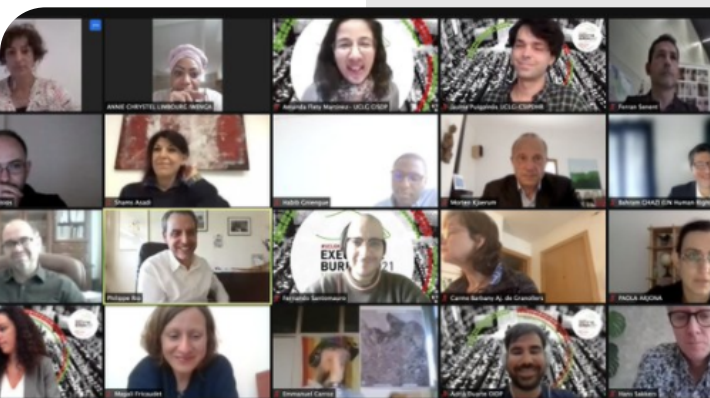
Local governments and human rights

### Local governments and human rights

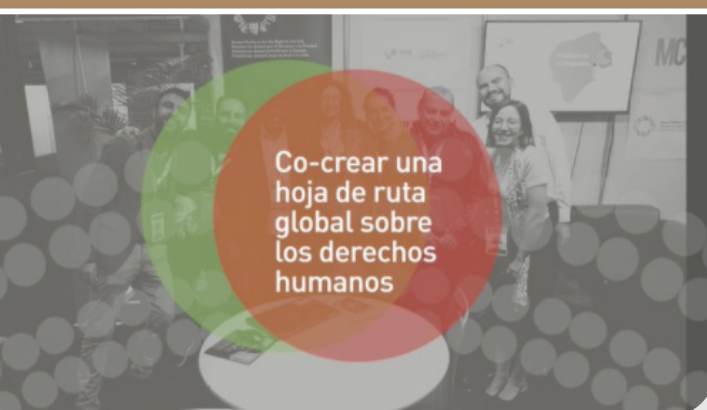
Over the last 20 years, an increasing number of local governments across the world has taken a more prominent role in promoting and protecting human rights. Since the inception



The Committee also contributed to the ongoing engagement strategy with holders of UN Special Rapporteurs mandates, pursued by UCLG in partnership with the Global Platform for the Right to the City (GPR2C) and Habitat International Coalition. In partnership with the GPR2C, the Committee also disseminated an open call to local authorities reclaiming a Binding Treaty on Transnational Corporations and Human Rights at the UN level. The Committee is also preparing contributions for the next reports of the Special Rapporteur on housing (on discrimination and spatial segregation) and violence against women (on femicides).



## A new collective vision by local governments on human rights



#CitiesAreListening

#RightToTheCity

#OurHabitatRights

**Roundtable between  
United Nations Special Rapporteurs,  
civil society organizations  
and local governments:**

*Connecting across Habitat Rights  
and the Right to the City*

**Wednesday  
3 February 2021**



Global Platform for the Right to the City  
Plataforma Global por el Derecho a la Ciudad  
Plateforme Globale pour le Droit à la Ville



Habitat International Coalition  
Coalición Internacional del Hábitat  
Coalition Internationale de l'Habitat  
التحالف الدولي للموئل  
आंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्यावास गठबंधन



The Committee also contributed to UCLG's **Right to the City** agenda. Various members contributed for instance to the UCLG Policy Council on the Right to the City meeting held in February, which set the tone for the political discussion process towards the Pact for the Future. Several members in the UCLG-CSIPDHR leadership also joined March events devoted to Women Rights in the framework of the CSW65 and the Generation Equality agenda.



All these efforts are aimed at gathering local government voices on human rights and the right to the city agenda to contribute the Pact for the Future process. In particular, the Committee hopes to explore and highlight emerging priorities by local authorities in revamping the social contract at the local level and addressing the inequality crisis from rights-based policy-making. Participation in the Policy Council on the Right to the City will allow to connect mobilization in the CSIPDHR with the wider UCLG constituency.

## Culture: A core component of territorial identity

UCLG supports policies on memory, heritage, creativity, diversity and knowledge through cultural programs aiming at education, active participation, critical citizenship, gender equality, linguistic diversity, and the empowerment of indigenous peoples. Culture is a core component of local and regional identity, a strand of global solidarity, and a vector for peace and human rights.

As we work towards the Pact for the Future and renewed social contracts, we have learnt and we are convinced that we have strong avenues that link culture with challenges of humanity. Culture has been critical in this pandemic to connect with one another, and is a critical aspect of the work of UCLG as we enter the phase of defining what is essential. The G20 included Culture in their programme, and UCLG played an important part in including culture in the agenda of the Urban 20 through the #Culture2030goal campaign.



The 4th UCLG Culture Summit was held in Izmir (Turkey) and online on 9-11 September 2021, under the title “Culture: Shaping the Future”. The UCLG Culture Summit has become the main meeting point at global level of cities, local governments and other stakeholders that are committed to the effective implementation of policies and programmes on culture and sustainable development.







The contents of the Summit were designed to discuss key issues related to the UCLG Pact for the Future, for the People, for the Planet, for the Government, and included sessions on the relationship between Culture and Gender Equality, the 2030 Agenda, Public Spaces, Heritage, Urban Planning, City Diplomacy and Climate Action, among many other.



The UCLG Culture Summit gave visibility to the outstanding and generous response to the pandemic given by cultural communities, with initiatives to mourn those who have left, to boost access and engagement in cultural life, to encourage awareness and tolerance, to create new expressions, to identify new energies and to build the capacities to imagine a new future, all together. The Declaration states “Participants to the UCLG Culture Summit have underlined the impressive power of culture to widen rights and freedoms of all, to improve well-being for all, and to build healthier and more resilient communities that leave no one and no place behind”.





The UCLG Culture Summit finished with the presentation of the Izmir Declaration, a document that builds on the UCLG acquis on culture and development.

In this context, the Declaration:



- a. Calls global leaders “to be bold and embrace a real global conversation on culture in sustainable development, which unfolds with truly ambitious programmes of international cultural cooperation and cultural diplomacy”. We urgently need, as humanity, as world citizens of our spaceship, mother Earth, to forge new forms of cooperation and solidarity.
- b. Invites all cities and local governments “to place culture at the centre of local development”, including the local achievement of the SDGs and global sustainable development agendas.
- c. Invites UNESCO to design an ambitious Mondiacult 2022, with “all actors to actively participate to the conversation, and aiming at allowing the international and the national frames

of cultural policies to be adapted to the challenges of the 21st century.”

- d. Invites “the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) to engage in a dialogue with the global cultural actors so that a dedicated Goal on Culture becomes a reality as soon as possible, and certainly in the post-2030 Development Agenda”. A dedicated goal would not prevent culture from also being considered as a cross-cutting element in other Goals, in keeping with the interconnected nature of sustainable development.

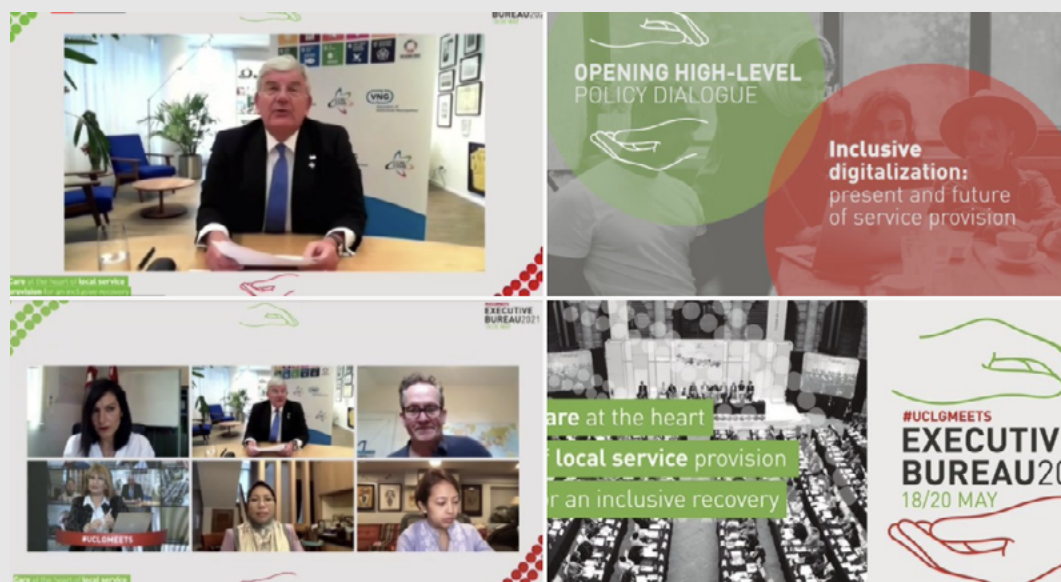
## Inclusive Digitalization

Under the premise access for all UCLG is engaged in promoting equal access to technology, and develop a public approach that has the commons at heart. Digital technologies and digital rights are becoming critical components of the UCLG agenda. UCLG is a core partner of the Cities Coalition of Digital Rights led by the cities of Amsterdam, Barcelona, and New York City which advocates for the protection of digital rights for all including the right to privacy and right to open data, the need for equitable access to technology and broadband for all residents, and open governance mechanisms.



UCLG as part of the core-team of the Coalition works towards making the connection between global policy processes and the work of the Coalition on digital rights. These global policy processes go beyond just technology to ensure that in important processes, such as for example the HLPF or Generation Equality, the importance of digital technologies is considered.

UCLG has also contributed to making the link between digital rights and culture by connecting the work of a core-partner of UCLG for culture, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and the Coalition of Cities for Digital Rights to further advocate on the link between digital rights and libraries. This link has been made also within the Policy Council on Opportunities for All, Culture and City Diplomacy: Keys to Sustainable Development and Peace.



Within the context of the 2021 Smart City Expo World Congress, UCLG will make a concrete connection between its World Council activities and the activities of the Coalition of Cities for Digital Rights including its General Members Assembly which takes place annually at the Smart Cities Congress. Follow up will also be given to the #CitiesAreListening Experience on smart recovery, which took place at Smart Cities Live 2020.

## The Peace Agenda

2021 has been a seminal year for international solidarity and peacebuilding. Two years after UCLG adopted its Durban Declaration, in which we expressed our resolve to become a municipalist movement driven by equality and local democracy and in the midst of a pandemic, peace driven by solidarity remains at the core of all our efforts.

After the “Road to the third World Forum” that took place last year, as a preparatory meeting for the Third World Forum on Cities and Territories of Peace, UCLG has taken a stronger role within the Secretariat of the Forum, passing the baton from Mexico City (host in 2021) and Bogota, who will hold the fourth edition of the Forum.





UCLG is also leading the development of the Mexico City Declaration, which links the process of the Forum with the development of our Pact for the Future and is available for members of UCLG at our UCLGMeets platform. The Declaration calls for:

- a. Multilevel work and the acknowledgment of territories in any and all global discussions of peace
- b. Strengthening health systems and universal vaccination as a cornerstone of peaceful societies
- c. Developing Cultures of Peace by promoting policies of peaceful transformation of conflict
- d. Harnessing the strength of UCLG as the global network of local and regional governments to strengthen local-global advocacy on peace and tackle future challenges.



## DECLARATION OF MEXICO CITY

Third Forum of Cities and Territories of Peace

**Building and signing peace between people, with the planet  
and with governance; renewing the social contract from our  
territories for a future of peace**

The UCLG Peace Prize is gearing to launch its third edition. In 2021, VNG international and UCLG have published the “Local Governments and a Culture of Peace” guide on the Prize. The guide highlights the winning municipalities of the 2016 and 2019, as well as the runners-up and honorable mentions, and lays out the pathways to the future of the Prize.



Gearing towards 2022, it is important to bear in mind that the UCLG World Congress in Daejeon will have peace and coexistence as one of its main topics. The #CitiesAreListening and Town Hall Process will be essential to foster new partnerships and build on existing ones between the municipal movement and the civil society, in particular with associations such as ACCORD, which has been an inspiring element for the Pact for the Future.

The 2022 World Congress will be the space for the celebration of the third edition of the UCLG Peace Prize. The visibility of the Summit can enhance the outreach of the award, reaching new audiences.



## FROM ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION TO TRANSFORMATION

The world has transformed its relationship with nature. We care for a future with an **ecological view of ecosystems** and not just focused on the resources that we need, a world that protects its biodiversity, its oceans, its air and its land. Caring for the Planet means defining the commitments toward sustainability and resilience; remaining committed to pursuing the necessary global ecological transition, especially in view of the renewed threats that we are facing; and contributing to raising the ambition of our efforts to tackle the climate emergency.

As UCLG continues to redefine what is essential, it is also envisioning the ecological transformation that our communities are asking us for. To move beyond the ecological transition and towards an ecological transformation it will be critical to go from emergency to livability, and continue work through the institutional partnership with key partners in this area.

Faced with the challenge of the climate emergency, environmental degradation and biodiversity, we must face profound transformations in our models of production, consumption, transport and housing, among others.

UCLG promotes a shift in the perception of our life systems, towards an **ecological harmonious relation** between humanity and nature. Cities and territories need to take into consideration the right of current and also future generations to enjoy a healthy, sustainable and livable planet. As local governments and regions are engaged towards building global resilience, it is important to explore urban-rural linkages and the integration of the broader ecosystems of intermediary cities, metropolises, regions and territories.

## Raising ambitions: Our constituency and the Climate and Biodiversity Agendas

Over 400 delegates representing cities, regions, and other subnational entities were a part of COP26 physically, a number that went beyond most countries. UCLG, together with ICLEI as UNFCCC focal point, has made sure that the voice of cities and regions are heard at COP26, through a **Local and Regional Governments Day on 11 November** (Cities, Regions and Environment Day) and by advocating for a renewed 2nd phase of the Paris Agreement increased National Determined Contributions based on multilevel action.



Over 1000 cities committed to the science-based targets through the Race-to-Zero at COP26, joining the more than 700 cities that had already joined. 76 regional governments joined the race to resilience.

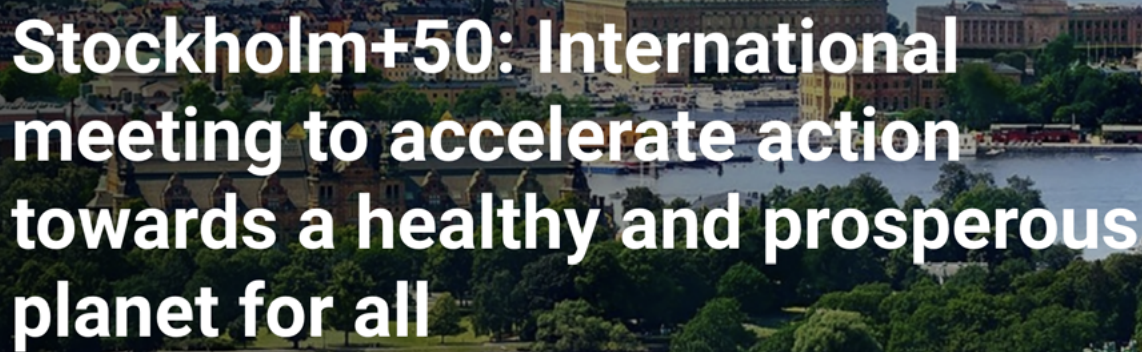
The constituency is also advocating for just, inclusive, holistic and nature-friendly action by 2030 and 2050, ensuring links with the COP15 decisions and agenda.



Keeping the focus on the transformation process that is needed to achieve the resilience and sustainability of the planet, UCLG will work to ensure that the Ecological transition agenda will become a transversal agenda to all the other agendas, to advocate for a Green Recovery, with equal opportunities for all. This includes our commitments to gender equality climate decision-making, with 50:50 leadership, and sharing governance among spheres of government.

As part of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Major Group and Stakeholders together with ICLEI, UCLG is ensuring that a Cities and Regions Summit is confirmed within the next United Nations Environment Assembly taking place in February 2022.

UCLG is also ensuring a monitoring of the Member-States discussions towards Stockholm+50, scheduled 2 and 3 June 2022 and celebrating the 50 years of the UN Conference on Human Environment.



## **Stockholm+50: International meeting to accelerate action towards a healthy and prosperous planet for all**

### **Transforming our food systems to put people at the center**

The pandemic has demonstrated the need for strengthening the linkages between national and local governments and the importance of promoting policy frameworks which recognize the interdependence of the various components of food systems and the crucial role of different levels of government.

A food systems approach is becoming increasingly relevant for local and regional governments around the world because it connects many different pressing social issues: poverty and inequality including access to food and to healthy diets, public health, new modalities of urban planning, cultural expressions, climate and ecology. The effects of the pandemic also call for refocusing on the right to sufficient, adequate, nutritious and sustainable food.

Food has always been high on the agenda of territorial cohesion and intermediary cities, and it is now reaching the broader membership.

UCLG is part of the Core Group of the FAO's Urban Food Systems Working Group made up of local governments, city networks, organizations that specialize in food, and development institutions, among others. The Working Group's purpose is to drive commitments and engagement by urban food systems actors as well as to increase participation and give a voice to local governments in all processes related to food (beyond the food systems summit in September).

Ahead of the UN Food Systems Summit in September and pre-summit in July, the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) COP 15, the UNFCCC COP26, and the 7th Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Global Forum 2021, will be hosted by Barcelona on 19-21 October 2021. UCLG is engaged in the political mobilization and advocacy of the constituency of local and regional governments as well as in the organization of a global dialogue and consultations, through the working group, towards the UN Food Systems Summit.

The impact of the crisis has put even more pressure on economic recovery and mitigation and adaptation to climate change. As we address the fragile and dependent consumption models of many cities, and of delocalized and unsustainable production systems, it will also be essential to rethink and rebalance the relationship between economic growth, the environment and public priorities.



UCLG has been actively involved in advocacy work related to food systems. UCLG is part of the FAO Working Group on Urban Food Systems facilitated by FAO and the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), which is made up of local and regional governments, city networks, organizations that specialize in food, and development institutions and UN Agencies. The Working group focuses its work on ensuring that local and regional governments and the issue of urban food systems are present throughout all FAO led processes as well as other international policy processes. UCLG is also part of an Ad-hoc Working Group on Territorial Governance led by UN-Habitat, FAO, and the OECD, among others, established to highlight the role of local and regional governments in strengthening multilevel governance and enhancing coordination and collaboration of relevant actors to transform food systems.



## FAO calls for making agri-food systems and green spaces part of urban plans

Director-General QU Dongyu spoke at UCLG 2020 World Council



UNITED NATIONS  
FOOD SYSTEMS  
SUMMIT 2021

## Local and Regional Governments Day

Inclusive and sustainable urban food systems  
for urban and territorial development



UCLG has supported the participation of the constituency and of the Global Taskforce (GTF) within working group activities and processes related to food systems. UCLG throughout all of these processes is working to ensure that local and regional governments are included within all decision-making processes at the international level related to food systems and that messages from mayors and governors are considered in discussions. UCLG is also included in discussions with the FAO other key actors on the possible development of an alliance which will focus on food systems and local and regional governments.





## LOCAL DEMOCRACY, CRITICAL TO RENEW THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

**Municipalism is a new way of going about politics:** UCLG believes in the world of tomorrow built on solidarity and governance of proximity that local and regional governments bring to the table, shaped within the aspirations and the vision of our neighbors. Caring for governments is defining governing in partnership, putting our communities at the core of the decision-making mechanisms, building peace and prosperity from our cities and regions and going from an international system to one driven by our communities, with local democracy as the leading value.

Citizens and the organized civil society play an active role in this transformation. At the end of last year, UCLG launched a publication on the contributions of participatory budgeting to climate change adaptation and mitigation and we have been organizing several webinars on how local and regional governments can promote green transition policies together with citizens.



The International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (IOPD) is a consultative mechanism of UCLG that brings together cities, organizations and research centres with an interest in learning about, exchanging and applying experiences on participatory democracy at local level. It organizes an annual conference and awards prizes for good practices in citizen participation. We also work on an agenda to deepen local democracy and policies for social, economic, ecological and cultural transformation through the active participation of citizens.





Democracy cannot afford to exclude half of the population, so participatory processes must include a gender perspective in their design and implementation. We will continue to prioritize and raise awareness on this essential issue for the feminist municipal movement.

The state of local democracy, implementation of the SDGs and basic rights are at the center of the IOPD yearly **International Conference**. This year the Conference was organized by the city of Cocody with the theme “Sustainable Cities/Territories and Participatory Democracy” focusing on how participatory democracy can be a guarantee of cities’ sustainable development. The key themes to be explored are local economic development; environment and citizen participation to improve sustainable cities; right to the city; governance and participatory democracy to create the positive change expected for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.



## Territories that care: Regions and intermediary cities bolstering urban transformation

The global pandemic has made the importance of a system of cities approach articulated by intermediary cities and territories even more prominent than before. The necessity to expand health, food and service systems beyond metropolitan areas is now a priority for most countries around the world. The symbiosis between the urban and the rural world will be defining future investment and planning policies the World round and it has also reached the agenda of the most powerful economies of the planet gathered under the G20.



The Intermediary Cities Forum of UCLG postponed its world gathering from 2020 to 2021. It took place from the 4th to the 8th of October 2021. Hosted by the city of Kütahya, Turkey, this year's gathering aimed at drawing lines towards the world post-COVID, while building on the challenges known during the COVID pandemic crisis to improve the conditions and capacities of the intermediary cities to unlock their potential at global level.



The Second World Forum on Intermediary Cities, in collaboration with UCLG-MEWA, counted on a series of consultations that took place both at thematic and continental levels which built on the intermediary cities' community that UCLG has been fostering.

The key focus areas were: Economy, Culture, Environment and Human and social capitals. In alignment with the overall agenda and priorities of UCLG, four thematic agendas structured the consultations and were reflected in the Forum sessions as well as the recommendations.

It is worth highlighting the international relevance of this agenda, which is under the priorities of the Italian Presidency of the G20. UCLG represents the cities constituency at the Development Working Group of G20 where this issue is discussed and the process of the UCLG Forum contributed to the discussions among member states.

The Forum of Regions has been strengthening its agenda during the year, culminating in the session on our UCLG World Council "Forum of Regions: Roadmap: strengthening the voice of regions", which brought the leadership of the Forum together to develop a roadmap to contribute to transformation and renew itself for the post-COVID era.

## WE ADVOCATE

# AMPLIFYING THE INTERNATIONAL VOICE OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS



## AMPLIFYING THE INTERNATIONAL VOICE OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

One of our main goals as the World Organization remains representing, defending, and amplifying the voices of local and regional governments and their associations to ensure no place is left behind. Our engagement in the Urban 20 Process, the review of the 2030 Agenda through our engagement in the HLPF and the production of our "Towards the localization of the SDGs" report, and our work in the year of the review of the New Urban Agenda remain critical as we discuss the renewal of the multilateral system.

### People, planet, and prosperity: The Urban perspectives in the G20 Process

The Urban 20 (U20) initiative was launched in 2017, seeking to coordinate a joint position among the mayors of G20 major cities, to inform and nurture the discussions of national leaders at the G20. UCLG is, together with C40, the co-convener of the initiative, and has an active role in supporting the U20 chairs in delivering the objectives, meetings and outcome documents.



During the previous editions of the initiative, U20 cities came together to deliver to the Chairs of the G20 action-oriented communiqués including their recommendations to national governments on climate action, social inclusion and sustainable economic growth.



The 2021 cycle of the U20 was co-chaired by the cities of Rome and Milan and held the U20 Summit from 2-3 September 2021. The first half of the cycle (from January to June 2021) was dedicated to consolidating the positions of U20 cities with respect to the priorities in question and the second half (from June to October 2021) was dedicated to G20 advocacy on U20 messages in preparation for the G20 Summit taking place in October 2021.

The 2021 communiqué was directly structured on the Italian G20 Presidency's priorities: People, Planet and Prosperity. Thus, the Urban 20 Communiqué urged G20 leaders to accelerate climate action ahead of COP26 and invest in the core tenets of a green and just recovery, as well as strengthening health systems and public services to ensure global and equitable access to vaccines. Finally, the Communiqué calls on the G20 to foster social cohesion and equity and to move towards inclusive and prosperous societies.

The U20 Summit included the official presentation of the U20 Communiqué to the G20 Presidency. A total of 41 mayors and governors outlined their vision for a new sustainable development paradigm and the road towards a resilient recovery from the global humanitarian crisis precipitated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

## A multilateral system that takes everyone into account: Localization at the 2021 High-Level Political Forum

The 2021 High-level Political Forum (HLPF) was held from Tuesday, 6 July, to Thursday, 15 July 2021, under the theme “Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”.



Nine Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were in review this year: 1 on no poverty, 2 on zero hunger, 3 on good health and well-being, 8 on decent work and economic growth, 10 on reduced inequalities, 12 on responsible consumption and production, 13 on climate action, 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, and 17 on partnerships.

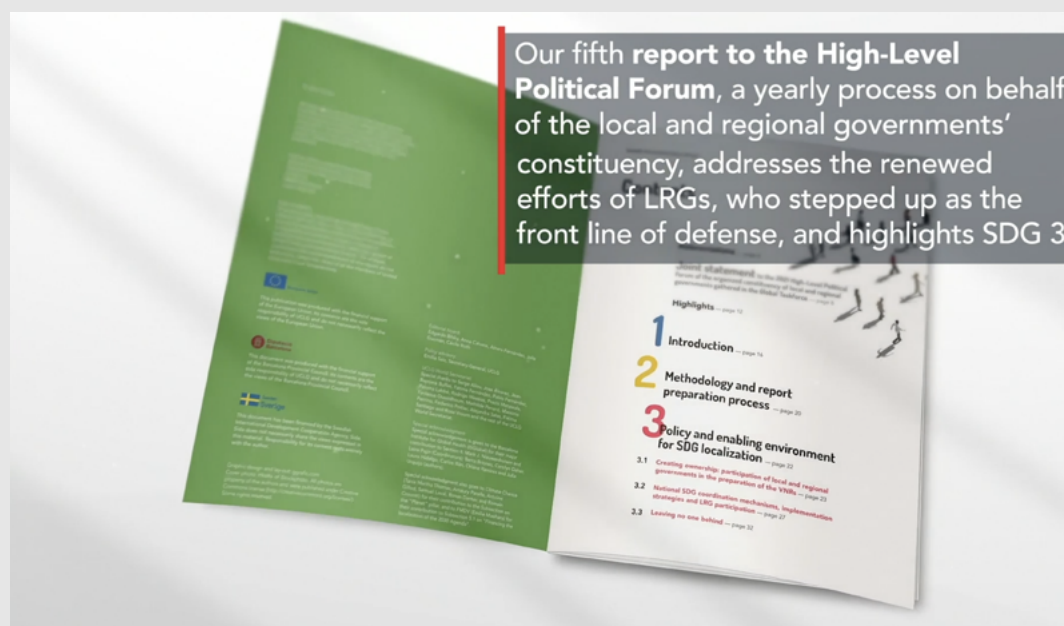
The Fourth Local and Regional Governments Forum, the key political moment of the constituency within the HLPF, met from 12-13 July under the theme “Fostering a Recovery that Is Resilient and Led by the Communities.” It was convened jointly by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), the Global Taskforce of LRGs, the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and Local 2030. The event illustrated the importance of localizing action and partnerships among spheres of governments and stakeholders towards achieving the SDGs under review by HLPF 2021.

The Forum highlighted the actions taken and the solutions needed by the local and regional governments constituency for an inclusive, sustainable and resilient recovery by emphasizing the link between local public service provision and health coverage, illustrating the role local and regional governments play in guaranteeing social inclusion and prosperity, reskilling workers and preparing for the transformation of work and evolving models of production and consumption, and achieving strong institutions based on solidarity. It counted on the participation of UN Principals such as the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Executive Director of UN Habitat, over 12 mayors/governors from around the world, presidents of local government associations, and high-level representatives from civil society organizations.

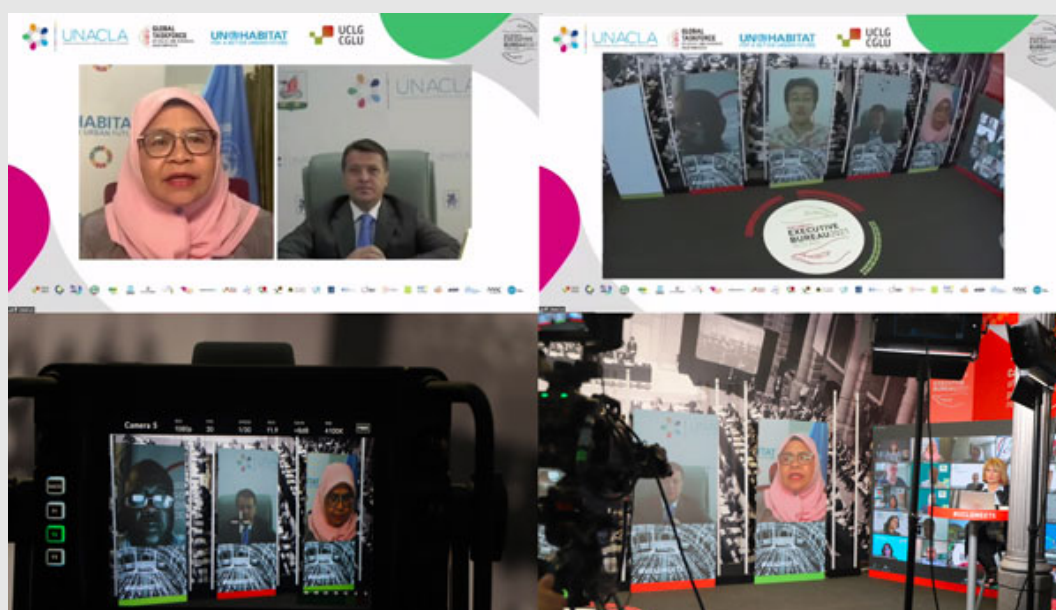




UCLG published, on behalf of the Global Taskforce, the fifth edition of our report to the High-Level Political Forum and launched it during the Local and Regional Governments Day, a dedicated event of the constituency traditionally held within the framework of the HLPF with participation from local and regional governments, UN Agencies and partners. The aim was to mobilize local governments' networks and promote stronger dialogue among local, national and international institutions to gain true momentum as part of the 'Decade of Action'.



The report provides the most comprehensive analysis to date of LRGs' efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in cities and territories worldwide, and to promote a safe, just and green recovery. Through the "health in all policies" approach, strong emphasis is placed on health and how this policy dimension, enshrined in SDG 3, affects, and is affected by, other dimensions and public policies such as food, transport, urban planning, water and sanitation, economic activities, etc.



The Draft Ministerial Declaration of the 2021 High Level Political Forum dedicated a paragraph to local authorities. As had been the case in last year's final draft due to an absence of consensus on the adoption of the declaration by Member States, it was not adopted finally.

### **Keys to acceleration: the New Urban Agenda and the Quito+5 process**

The recognition of the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments, convened by the Global Taskforce, as the formal mechanism for review and follow-up of the New Urban Agenda, puts our constituency in a critical place to pledge for an enhanced role for local and regional governments in the implementation of the global agenda, but also to put forward some of the key challenges faced for the monitoring and review of the implementation.

Beyond the need to deepen the debate on the recognition of local and regional governments as formal actors in the review and follow-up of the New Urban Agenda, a number of key issues have been identified by practitioners and councillors.

The UCLG Policy Council on the New Urban Agenda will play the role of a sounding board for the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments.

It is proposed to ensure greater articulation between the Policy Council and the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA) when ensuring input to the monitoring and review of the New Urban Agenda, both promoting the New Urban Agenda as an accelerator towards the localization of the SDGs.

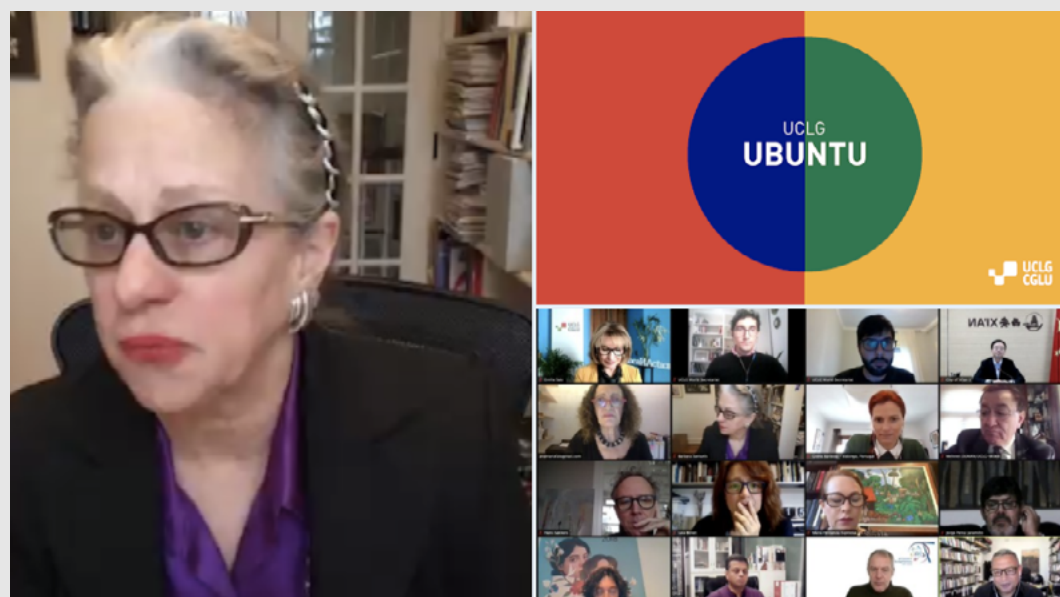
The United Nations General Assembly has confirmed to hold the UN High-Level Meeting on the Effective Implementation of the New Urban on 28 April 2022 (Quito +5+1), which will be the first formal reporting of Member-States. UCLG, as facilitator of the Global Taskforce, is playing a critical role in preparing our constituency for Quito+5. The UCLG Policy Council on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, as well as the GTF, met on several occasions, and defined a Technical Roadmap for the constituency towards Quito+5.

The work was also linked in the framework of a #CitiesAreListening Experience organized by UN-Habitat and UCLG, with the support of the Andalusian Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AACID), which was the occasion to present the Sub-National Urban Policy: A Guide, an instrument to support urban management for governments and stakeholders to contribute to the achievement of the New Urban Agenda.



## Localizing finance for development

Localizing financing is at the heart of UCLG's strategic priorities since its outset. UCLG has historically been engaged in research and data collection efforts in order to map the situation of local finance internationally and to inform its advocacy work towards development and investments banks, in particular the World Bank, for the creation of adequate financing mechanisms to meet the growing needs of the urban era.



To enhance UCLG's Strategy on Localizing Financing, UCLG with the support of FMDV commissioned a policy paper from **UCLG UBUNTU advisor on local finance, Barbara Samuels**. The paper will define actionable recommendations to unlock the required financing for cities and regions to achieve the global agendas. It will be submitted to the Executive Bureau for information and discussion.

**The International Municipal Investment Fund (IMIF)**, a joint initiative of UNCDF and UCLG in collaboration with FMDV, was officially launched at the UCLG World Congress in Durban in November 2019. The Fund aims to facilitate access to financial markets for cities (especially intermediary



cities) to help them finance capital infrastructure. The Fund has been formally registered, and an initial capitalization of around €200 million is expected by early 2022.



In June 2021, the IMIF-Technical Assistance Facility (TAF), managed by UNCDF and supported by UCLG and FMDV, conducted an on-site scoping mission in Chefchaouen, one of the 3 pilot cities that are part of IMIF project pipeline. The objective of this mission was to assess the city's public lighting project, a car park project and other relevant projects that may be bundled together to reach a total investment of approximately five million USD to be submitted to the IMIF fund manager, Meridiam, for funding. The mission consisted of one expert from UNCDF and a second from FMDV.



To support the implementation of the IMIF-TAF, a Party Agreement was signed between FMDV and UNCDF in August 2021. It is expected to help facilitate and accelerate the provision of technical support to cities for them to access the investment fund managed by Meridiam.

In view of the third conference of the **Malaga Global Coalition for Municipal Finance** in 2022, UCLG in collaboration with FMDV, UNCDF and the city of Malaga convened a first preparatory meeting. It brought together local and regional governments and their associations to discuss the impact of the pandemic on local finance one year after the outbreak, and their role in the definition and implementation of recovery packages. A second preparatory meeting will be organized at the end of 2021, involving local and regional governments along with national authorities and development partners.



In its capacity as UCLG consultation mechanism for local finance, FMDV has advanced the implementation of UCLG's strategy on several fronts. New interviews with urban finance practitioners have been released and made available on the [Local Finance Knowledge Hub](#). The platform is expected to serve as a one-stop-shop to highlight innovative financing solutions and inform the debate and exchanges of the UCLG Community of Practice on Local Finance. To increase the development of this platform, FMDV signed an agreement with AFD to develop videos and webinars in 2022.

Between May and November, UCLG has been actively participating to the European Commission and PFD consultations on global challenges, regional programming and inclusive multilateralism, and has brought the views of the members based on the report of the constituency to UN75.



## World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment

In collaboration with the OECD, the team finalized the preparation of the methodological guide and templates for country profiles and for data entry in English, French and Spanish. These supporting documents will serve to **update qualitative and quantitative information in the 124 countries covered by the World Observatory**. The new edition of the World Observatory report will also include **up to 18 new country profiles**, subject to data availability. The preparation of the next edition of the World Observatory report will start in early October 2021 with the mobilization of local experts to collect the data.

With a view to better sharing the wealth of information collected by the Observatory and raising global awareness on the issue of local finances, UCLG launched a **Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) on Subnational Public Finance**. Drawing on the findings of the World Observatory, it aims to provide an extensive overview of the main issues and trends related to local and regional finances across the world.

## Introduction to Subnational Government Finances

A MOOC developed by:



Based on the findings of:



With the financial support of:







**New MOOC**  
Get to know the findings  
of the World Observatory  
on Subnational Government  
Finance and Investment

A MOOC developed by:  
**UCLG**  
United Cities  
and Local Governments

Based on the findings of:  
**SNGWOFI**  
World Observatory on Subnational  
Government Finance and Investment

and test your  
knowledge with  
exercises and a  
final quiz!

## KNOWLEDGE AT THE SERVICE OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

### GOLD VI – Co-creating the pathways to equality

In an increasingly urbanized world, facing unequal and unsustainable patterns of development, **cities and territories are essential to reshape a renewed governance** that responds to the global and local challenges on several principles of democracy, solidarity and human rights protection. The VI GOLD Report will explore the 'Pathways to urban and territorial equality', working to reframe the notion of equality and recognizing the drivers that perpetuate inequality, as well as how local and regional governments, together with partners of the civil society and Academia, can act to reduce inequalities and provide better standards of living for their population



Following the decision of the Executive Bureau in May 2020, and building on the renewed agenda on addressing inequalities and caring for communities, UCLG Research has initiated the process of preparation of the GOLD VI report, which will revolve around the 'Pathways to urban and territorial equality'. A partnership agreement was developed with the Bartlett Development Planning Unit of the University College of London and the Know program, involving academia and main networks of civil society organizations (Asian Centre for Human Rights, Co-Habitat, Global Platform for the Right to the City, Habitat International Coalition, Public Service International, Slum Dwellers International, WIEGO).

### The four stages of GOLD VI Report



- a. Stage 1 (definition of contents, authors of the chapters and expected contributions) concluded at the end of January 2021 with a collective workshop that gathered all contributors involved in the drafting process of the GOLD VI report.
- b. Stage 2 includes the drafting of the different Issue-Based and Case-Based Contributions (IBCs and CBCs) by a number of actors with different backgrounds: the work areas of UCLG, as well as committees and working groups, local and regional governments, members of academia, civil society networks.
- c. Stage 3, from July 2021 to January 2022 focuses on the development of the chapters. The expected result is twofold:



**1) a report that reframes the notion of equality, recognizing the drivers that perpetuate inequalities across different scales, as well as their context-specificity, and leverages the potential of local and regional governments, civil society and other local actors in the progress towards urban and territorial equality, and 2) the development of a sense of co-production and long-lasting multi-stakeholder dialogue and partnerships starting with the shared GOLD VI process.**

- d. The preliminary draft of the report is foreseen for January 2022.**

## Voluntary local and subnational reviews

Voluntary Subnational Reviews are bottom-up reports led by national associations of local governments that give account of the state of SDG localization in the country, permeate the national reporting process and advocate towards an enabling environment for the localization of the 2030 Agenda.

UCLG facilitated the reporting process on SDG localization of 8 local governments associations, in [Cape Verde](#), [Tunisia](#), [Zimbabwe](#), [Indonesia](#), [Germany](#), [Norway](#), [Sweden](#) and [Mexico](#). In March, April and May, the GOLD team organized together with UCLG's CIB Working Group workshops on methodology, results and challenges. These experiences and reports were also presented during a specific session during the



VLR-VSR Days of the HLPF, in July. Together with UCLG's CIB Working Group, we are developing a set of guidelines with the aim to bring new associations onboard interested in producing a VSR next year. The aim is to engage in the VSR process as soon as possible, to match with the timing of elaboration of the VNRs and therefore to increase the possibilities of including local experiences and inputs in the national reporting processes.

GOLD @GoldUCLG · 22 abr.

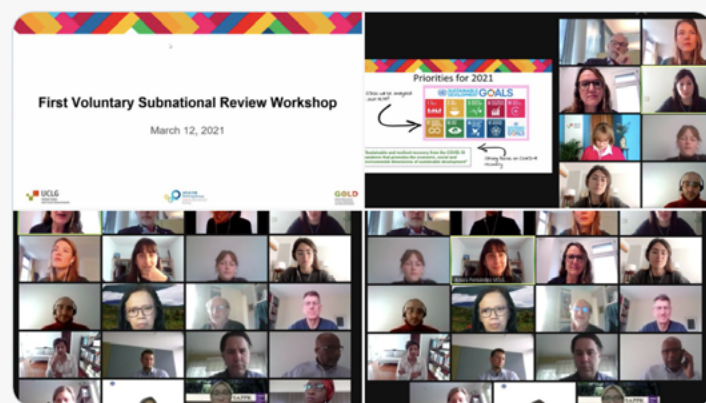
Our secretary general @UCLG\_Saiz opens the second #VSR Workshop organized by @uclg\_org & @UCLG\_CIB

"VSRs are very critical instruments for the national dialogue on SDG implementation and to show where LRGs are, how much investment is being made"



United Cities @uclg\_org · 12 mar.

Second part of the #VSR workshop is underway! The process of elaborating #VSRs contribute to enhancing the quality of dialogue between national and local spheres. Discussing priorities and structure proposal for 2021 reporting year! #LocalizingSDGs



Following the success of the first volume of the Guidelines for VLRs that was published in 2020 with UN-Habitat, a second volume was published in June and presented at the **VLR-VSR Days**, in the framework of our constituency's work at the 2021 HLPF. The second volume of the guidelines focuses on the arising question on how to establish a connection between local and national reporting processes, namely between VLRs and VNRs. Finally, in partnership with UNDP, the Andalusian Development Cooperation Agency, the Barcelona Provincial Council and other partners, UCLG published in July a comparative study on different SDG monitoring systems fostered at local-national-inter-national levels by public, private and other stakeholders.

#HLPF2021

#Listen2Cities



## VLR/VSR DAYS

1st EDITION-HLPF JULY 14-16 2021



VLR/VSR  
DAYS 2021  
1st EDITION - HLPF

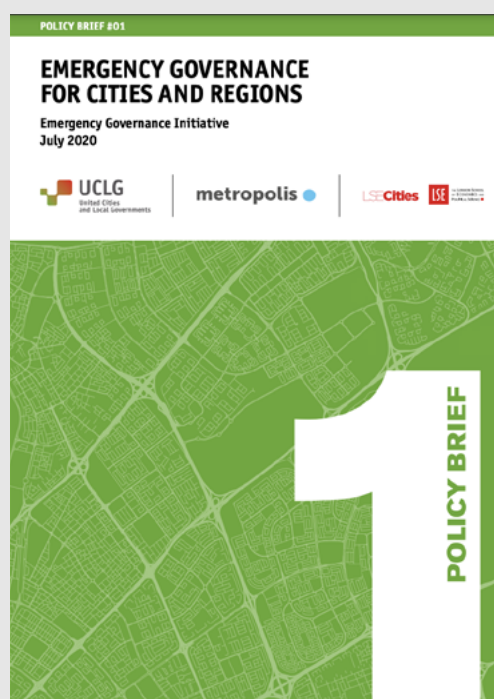
UNO HABITAT  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

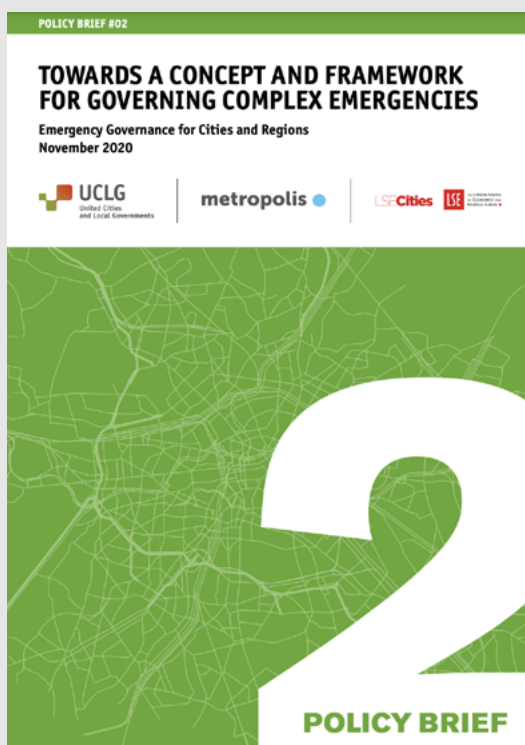
UCLG  
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## Acting for government: The Emergency Governance Initiative

The Emergency Governance Initiative (EGI) developed by UCLG with LSE Cities and Metropolis has produced 3 Analytics Notes and 3 Policy Briefs since June 2020 aiming to contribute to building institutional capacities for more effective urban and territorial responses to complex and global emergencies through insights, key trends and reflections on the governance of COVID-19 and other emergencies such as climate and housing.





The fourth pair of publications on multi-level governance of emergencies was foreseen for May-June 2021. The process that is leading to the publication has involved the participation of members from different UCLG Policy Councils which has had a dual goal: firstly, to ensure the publications gather the data, information, insights and concerns coming from the local leaders and, secondly, to foster ownership of the EGI amongst the Network and translating the key takeaways into local policies that tackle complex emergencies in a collaborative, sustainable and inclusive manner.





Since May 2021, [Metropolis](#), UCLG and London School of Economics - LSE Cities have been working on the Policy Brief 4 on emergency multilevel governance models. Beyond desktop research, three workshops (the first in the framework of UCLG's Policy Councils) were organized to identify local governance models during the pandemic and other crises.

The next publication, Policy Brief 5, was published late in 2021, focusing on the diversity of governance models for the provision of public services, in the face of complex emergencies. The Policy Brief 6 on emergency and local democracy will be published in the first quarter 2022. The final report will be published in November 2022 and launched during UCLG's World Congress.

## Emergency Governance for Cities and Regions





## EMBRACING LOCALIZATION WORLDWIDE

We develop tools, learning activities, and modules to learn together and re-embrace localization. The Learning Strategy of UCLG has evolved over the last years; we are working to disseminate our work around localization with local and regional governments associations, bringing localization to life by developing new methodologies to train trainers, developing on-line tools and helping to enhance local governments policies and public services.

Thanks to the growing teamwork throughout regional sections in the Learning Forum, the UCLG Learning Agenda has been expanding its tools for the localization of global agendas (SDGs and Resilience) and Peer Learning in several urban public policies areas, providing support for UCLG programs and members.

## E-learning - #LearningWithUCLG platform



The online #LearningWithUCLG platform continues to gain attention with over 530 users registered so far. Massive and Open Online Courses (MOOCs) currently available include (1) Beyond The Outbreak: The importance of Local Public Services, (2) three courses on the Localization of the SDGs, and (3) Innovation and Post-Pandemic Recovery. Additional MOOCs on Local Economic Development (developed by the Committee on Local Economic and Social Development), Local Finances (developed by the Observatory on Local Finances), and Resilience Building (based on the new Learning Modules) will be launched by the end of the year.

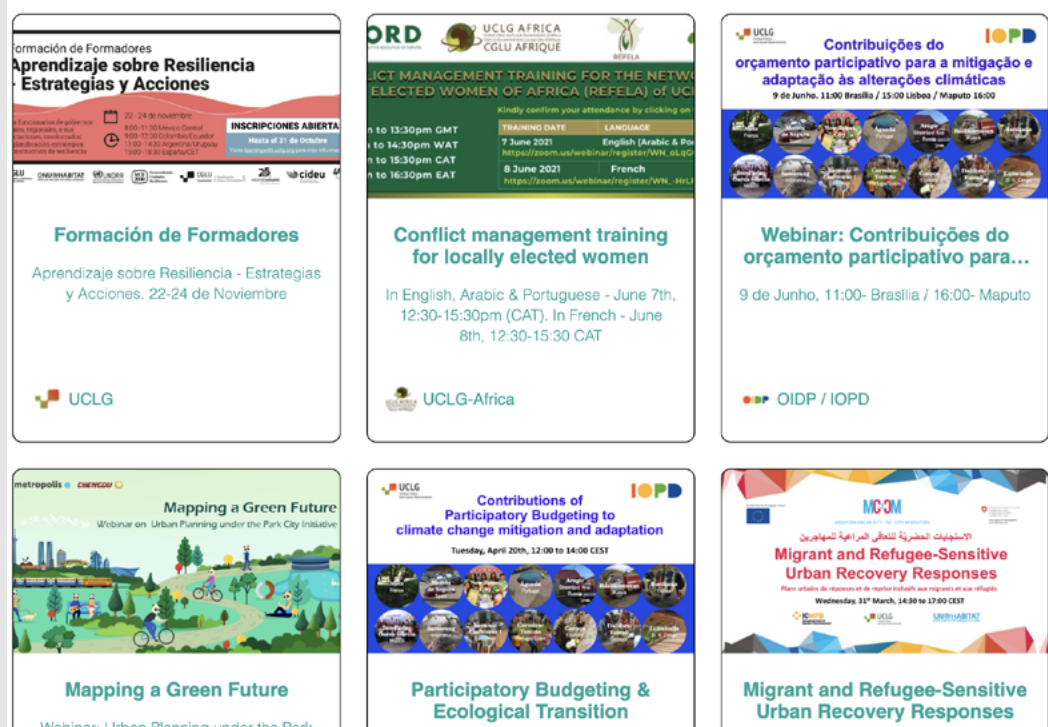
 <p><b>Beyond the Outbreak: The Importance of Local Public...</b></p> <p>A crash course to learn the key learnings and key policies in the new scenario</p> <p> <b>UCLG</b> <span style="float: right;">FREE</span></p>	 <p><b>Más allá de la pandemia: La importancia de los servicios...</b></p> <p>Un curso intensivo para conocer los aprendizajes y políticas clave en el nuevo escenario</p> <p> <b>UCLG</b> <span style="float: right;">FREE</span></p>	 <p><b>Au-delà de la pandémie: L'importance des services...</b></p> <p>Un cours intensif pour apprendre les principaux enseignements et les politiques clés du nouveau scénario</p> <p> <b>UCLG</b> <span style="float: right;">FREE</span></p>
 <p><b>Localizing the SDGs</b> Introduction + Planning + Monitoring</p> <p></p> <p><b>Localizing the SDGs - From awareness-raising to...</b></p> <p>Courses: 3 Coaching: 0 <span style="float: right;">FREE</span></p>	 <p><b>Localizando los ODS</b> Introducción + Planificación + Monitoreo</p> <p></p> <p><b>Localizando los ODS - Introducción, planificación y..</b></p> <p>Courses: 3 Coaching: 0 <span style="float: right;">FREE</span></p>	 <p><b>Localisation des ODD</b> Introduction + Planification + Suivi</p> <p></p> <p><b>Localisation des ODD - De la sensibilisation au suivi</b></p> <p>Courses: 3 Coaching: 0 <span style="float: right;">FREE</span></p>





The #LearningWithUCLG platform also highlights learning opportunities (webinars, workshops, etc.) organized by UCLG sections and consultation mechanisms, led by and for local and regional governments. As presented during the Retreat, the site is intended to provide a variety menu of learning opportunities with different thematic and regional specialties, building on and bringing together the existing knowledge and efforts from the network.

### Webinars, Trainings & Workshops



### Learning Forum

The Learning Forum is a space for consulting and aligning work plans and rolling out strategies of modules, tools and learning activities. Cooperation and teamwork spans from supporting and adaptation of

learning modules, to supporting and advising partnerships for enhanced learning in regions. Alongside the regional section focal points, there are also thematic initiatives such as the Social Solidarity Economy, the Guangzhou award, Local Economic Development, Human Rights and/or Public Space and planning which can and documents to be embedded in the learning agenda.

The virtual roll out of the modules and training of trainers have strengthened the learning forum and given forum members the possibility to engage in and lead virtual learning activities with global outreach.



## Training of trainers on the localization of global agendas

The Modules on resilience and the localization of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) continue to be rolled -out successfully together with the regional sections, and in collaboration with UNDRR and UN-Habitat. Regional trainings, adapted to their

specific contexts, have been organized together with UCLG-ASPAC and FLACMA, and are being planned together with UCLG-MEWA, UCLG-Africa and Mercociudades, with UCLG, UN-Habitat and UNDRR certification. These modules and training of trainers are one of UCLG's principal contributions to the Making Cities Resilient 2030 initiative.

**UCLG Learning** @UCLGLearning · 14 oct. ...

💡 Hier nous avons lancé deuxième module d'apprentissage sur la **#résilience**, concentré sur stratégies et actions des villes et régions pour renforcement de résilience et l'adaptation au climat ! **#Innovate4Cities** **#MCR2030** **@uclg\_org** **@UResilienceHub** **@UNDRR**

👉 [learning.uclg.org/resilience-mod...](https://learning.uclg.org/resilience-mod...)



**Module II d'apprentissage sur la résilience : Stratégies et actions**

Les jeux d'apprentissage et #Local4Action  
**Débloquer une feuille de route mondiale sur la résilience pour les gouvernements locaux et régionaux**

13 octobre 15:00-16:30 CEST


UNDRR  
UN-HABITAT  
UCLG

Tú y 9 más

**UCLG Learning** @UCLGLearning · 31 ago. ...

🟢 How does our worldview affect our approaches to resilience?

🌱 Starting second day of **#Resilience** Learning Module II training, @fesantomauro facilitates a critical thinking exercise and debate on the relationship between (and among) people and nature. **#LearningWithUCLG** **#MCR2030**



**Resilience Learning Module II: Strategies and Actions**

go-logical vs Eco-logical

with Tigo-Got. Source: S. Lehmann, 2010.

**UCLG** **UN-HABITAT** **UNDRR**  
United Cities and Local Governments FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

**Resilience Learning Module:  
Fundamentals of Resilient Governance & Development**

Localizing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction to ensure resilience-based sustainable and inclusive development

**#MCR2030 #Local4Action #ResilientCities**

The new Learning Module 4 on the Localization of the SDGs, with a focusing on decentralized cooperation and the SDGs was launched, and the first training of trainers carried out with Plataforma, UNDP-Art and UN-Habitat. Upcoming trainings will be done according to the regional sections and members' demands, starting with a training of trainers coordinated by the African Academy of Local Governments (ALGA) of UCLG-Africa.

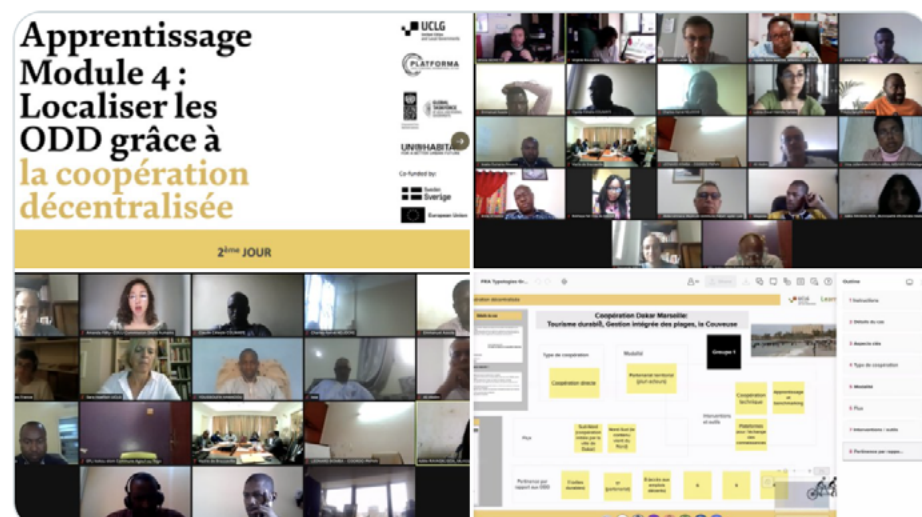




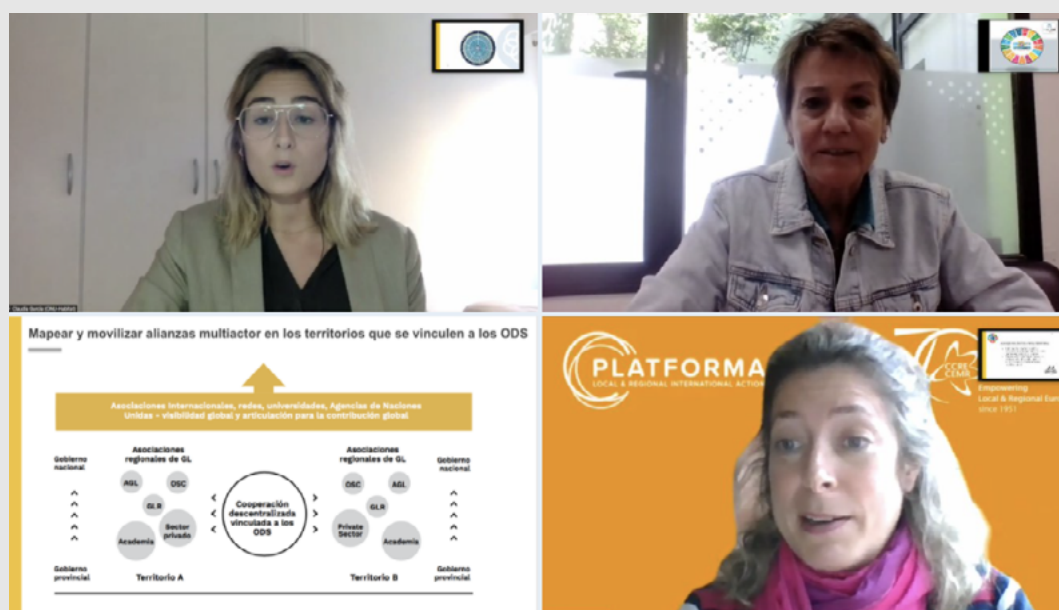
United Cities @uclg\_org · 14 sept.

Comment la #CoopérationDécentralisée aide à la #LocalisationDesODD ?

Voici ce que les participants de la formation des formateur·rice·s du Module 4: Localiser les #ODD grâce à la CD apprennent à travers des jeux & des échanges d'expériences pratiques! 🙌  
#LearningWithUCLG



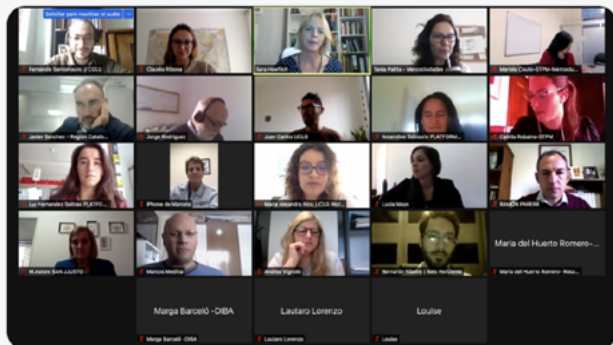
The first Training on Trainers using the module was conducted for the PLATFORMA team from April 28 to May 3, 2021. This was followed by Two Training of Trainers with UCLG Africa and ALGA. The first one, targeting English-speaking municipalities and associations, was carried out between June 28-July 1, and a second one targeting French-speaking municipalities and associations took place between September 13-16. Both trainings engaged multiple partners and participants, and brought up concrete examples of decentralized cooperation to reflect upon.



**PLATFORMA** @Platforma4Dev · 18 oct.  
 Also behind their screens to animate and make this training on #Module4 a success:

- ◆ @javr\_sanchez: @gencat
- ◆ Marga Barceló: @diba
- ◆ @HoefflichSara, @mariale\_rico, Fernando Santomauro & Juan Carlos Uribe Vega: @UCLGLearning

#LocalizingSDGs | #SDGs4DC | #LearningWithUclg



**UCLG Learning** @UCLGLearning · 13 oct.  
 Mme Fatimetou Abdel Malick, President of @NkttRegion and co-chair of @uclg\_org's Policy Council on Safer, #Resilient and Sustainable Cities, Capable of Facing Crises opens the session, sharing her work as #DRR champion over many years! #MCR2030 #LearningWithUCLG



Tú y 6 más

Two more Trainings of Trainers are already scheduled for October this year, one with UCLG-ASPAC and the other with Mercociudades. The Module, as well as its key material is now available in English, French and Spanish for all members to consult and carry out their own training. Furthermore, a new Learning Video focusing on SDG17 and highlighting the importance of decentralized cooperation and horizontal partnerships was also published as part of the module's rollout.

# Módulo de Aprendizaje 4: Localizar los ODS a través de la cooperación descentralizada



Con el apoyo de:



**United Cities** @uclg\_org · 18 oct.  
 ¡Comienzan 3 días por delante en los que @UCLGLearning y @mercociudades pondrán en común experiencias latinoamericanas en esta formación de formadores en el Módulo 4 "Localizar los #ODS a través de la #Cooperación Descentralizada"!

#LocalizingSDGs  
 #ODS #LearningWithUclg



#LocalizingSDGs

#ODS #CooperaciónDescentralizada

The online course on localizing the SDG developed between UCLG and the provincial council of Barcelona continues a very successful initiative for reaching out to new members and activities, training between 70 and 100 trainers a year. The course, based on the first three learning modules for localizing the SDGs, has been updated with new cases from cities, developments on the VLRs, as well as the increasingly important

role of LRGs in the HLPF. The online courses include live sessions, providing opportunities for interaction with staff of the UCLG World Secretariat and regional sections, as well as highlighting the innovative inputs of the participants on their own process of localizing the SDGs.

## Resilience Learning Modules - from fundamentals to action

The Resilience Learning Modules I & II are a core resource of the Making Cities Resilient 2030 initiative and provide a framework for members and partners to address and support local governments. It enables sections, committees and members to strengthen work and integral approaches around the urgency and emergency of resilient strategies. Besides the regional networks and sections which have led training of trainers, the Committee of Urban Strategic Planning, as well as the Hague Academy and the Seoul Human Resources Development Center have started to use them as an enabler for virtual network and collective capacity building.

### TRAINING OF TRAINERS

Discover our facilitation guides (Learning Modules) for the localization of the SDGs and the Sendai Framework for DRR, built with a Training of Trainers approach.



### LOCALIZING THE SDGS

#### Module 1

→ Introduction

#### Module 2

→ Territorial Planning & the SDGs

#### Module 3

→ Monitoring & Reporting

#### Module 4

→ Decentralized Cooperation

### RESILIENCE

#### Volume I

→ Fundamentals of Resilience

#### Volume II

→ Strategies & Actions  
*Coming soon*

# Resilience Learning Module I:

# Fundamentals of Resilient Governance & Development

## Digital peer-learning methodologies

Continued methodological support has been given to exchanges among cities, through digital facilitation and the adaptation of existing tools. These include the use of digital whiteboards for the exchange of ideas and reflection on cities' experiences in UCLG- driven dialogues, as well as engaging peer-learning engaging dynamics for interactive problem-based analytical tools to facilitate UCLG working areas and meetings. Empirical methodologies, such as creative storytelling and policy development exercises were also piloted during the Migration project peer learnings.



## WE MEET

# THE POWER OF WE AT OUR GATHERINGS

The new Learning website has been adapted to present the materials and tools (trainers' guides, slides, and related games/resources) in a clear way, for members to do their own training, peer-learning, and adapted capacity building, in line with UCLG materials and agenda.

## THE POWER OF WE AT OUR GATHERINGS

### The UCLG Retreat

In what turned out to be the most successful Retreat to date, the gathering brought together **over 630 participants** from **210 cities and 70 countries** to an entire week of virtual meetings. The UCLG Retreat innovated by **incorporating the dimension of care within its gatherings** under the banner of "UCLG, a global community that cares". The World Organization began to envision a care agenda and laid out the goal to become a Platform of Platforms, thinking about the next generation of trainings that could be used by other networks, and beginning to think about the platformization and digital revolution of UCLG under the moniker of the "power of we".

The 2021 iteration opened the windows of the World Secretariat, to bring each other close and make participants feel like they were sitting side by side. Under a TV set to ensure high quality production, a permanently staffed Help Desk giving members and partners the kind of personalized attention typically given just a click away, as well as new ways to display the participants, the Retreat wasn't just simply about attending, but spending a week together as a shared experience where everyone was asked to open their own windows.

United Cities @uclg\_org · 15 feb.

Our 1st gathering of the members of the UCLG Secretariats shows how much UCLG is a community for all of its members: one that cares, that brings us all together no matter the distance! Some images behind the scenes to give you a **#UCLGMeets Retreat** that you will never forget! ✨



United Cities @uclg\_org · 19 feb.

Our **#UCLGMeets** comes to an end! 🎉

Check out today's and all the week's coverage [uclg.org/en/node/31901](https://uclg.org/en/node/31901)

Thank you for being part of all the exciting moments and contributions that have enriched our **Retreat!**  
[twitter.com/i/events/13628...](https://twitter.com/i/events/13628...)

The power of "WE is coming!" ✨





The digital revolution of the movement is set to take the shape of an all-new UCLG information system that reflects the notion of the “Platform of Platforms”. The system will be driven by the concept of the “power of we”, showcasing the advocacy of UCLG in a way that links the overall narrative, the processes, and the outcome documents.

With the Pact for the Future as an end-goal, the UCLG Sections presented their priorities for the upcoming years in the Retreat, and their political leadership presented some of the actions adopted at the local level in each world region during the pandemic, and how these had allowed them to shape their priorities for the coming year. Building on the synchronization work initiated by our Assembly Track in our World Congress in Durban, the UCLG sections showcased how their priorities built into the overall renewal of UCLG’s strategic priorities.

The narrative around care that appeared during our Retreat is the foundation for our work and the transformation of our narrative around the **Pact for the Future**, being built upon through our renewed work around healthcare, digital rights and food systems. The Presidency Meeting that took place within the Retreat acknowledged the need to

address care in our day-to-day work, as well as the importance of our strengthened relations with the UN Agencies.

## Care at the heart of local service provision the UCLG Executive Bureau



Our UCLG Executive Bureau, held virtually, was our first moment of the year to reflect on the developing narrative of UCLG, and brought to life the solidarity on display from local and regional governments, and allowed to bring to the forefront some critical topics for the world organization that had been growing over the year, such as **Development Cooperation** and **Migration**.

The Executive Bureau built on our work during the pandemic by bringing to the table the discussion around the **new essentials**. Through political dialogues around **Digitalization** and **Healthy cities and territories**, we brought local and regional perspectives on what needs to be done to include all populations to the digital sphere, and how to develop cities and territories that care for our communities' health.

The Policy Dialogue around **Digitalization** brought to the table partners such as **Microsoft**, who called on the need to skill public servants, and highlighted the importance of harnessing technology from the local level to enhance democracy and to serve communities, fostering the development potential of people. Our policy dialogue on health brought together representatives from the **World Health Organization**,



**UHC2030**, and **Cancer City Challenge** to debate the importance of local and regional governments in situations of crisis and strengthening health systems, and how to involve communities in the recovery.



Care at the heart of local service provision  
for an inclusive recovery



The conversation around our new essentials also filtered into the Policy Debate of our Executive Bureau. The session brought to the centre of the conversation the importance of women in developing cities and territories that care, and that also added the dimension of time and its use, as well as the new common goods that need to be fostered by our territories. President **Mohamed Boudra** and Copresident **Thembisile Nkadameng**, together with the Undersecretary General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN Women **Phumzile Mlambo-Ngucka** and Director of the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities **Lamia Kamal**, among many mayors and partners, as well as the Director of Cities Alliance **Greg Munro** also took the stage, as did Director of the World Health Organization **Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** through a video message.

The formal Session of our Executive Bureau was chaired by 3 members of our Co-Presidency in 3 segments that echoed the 3 pillars of the Pact for the Future: People; Planet; and Government. Co-President and Mayor of Xi'an **Li Mingyuan** introduced the session by highlighting the commitment of UCLG towards creating a world that integrates solidarity, care, and equality and its segment included the presentation of the reports of the reports of the Committee on Statutory Affairs and the Financial Management Committee, by Treasurers **Berry Vrbanovic**, Mayor of Kitchener and **Madelaine Alfelor**, Mayor of Iriga. **President Boudra** addressed the work of UCLG towards a “better normality” while focusing on rights, and presented the upcoming UCLG Culture Summit in Izmir.



The new essentials of human mobility and the Policy Paper of Development Cooperation were presented in the second part of the

session, which highlighted the potential of the Lampedusa Charter as a “Charter for all”, as Mayor of Lampedusa highlighted in his speech. The Paper on Development Cooperation was introduced as an opportunity to place solidarity at the core of development cooperation.

The third and final segment, chaired by Co-President and Mayor of San José **Johnny Araya**, aimed at building on these new essentials to redefine our priorities. The territorial focus for the urban era, redefining governance and our initiative on emergency governance with the London School of Economics-Cities, local financing, and the role of our constituency towards Quito + 5 and the United Nations were the key items of the agenda. Working for government could be the key message of the dialogue, were it not for the inclusion of the commitment of our World Organization with maintaining peace and human rights in Palestine and Myanmar, and the need to incorporate the youth.

## UCLG World Council - Renewing our leadership towards the UCLG World Congress

The 2021 UCLG World Council met in a hybrid format on 16-18 November 2021, under the theme “Smart cities and territories, pillars of the Common Agenda”. This World Council was a special gathering for the Organization: after almost two years of virtual gatherings, the UCLG leadership met in a hybrid format in the framework of the Smart City Expo World Congress. Almost 100 people met physically and 400 virtually over the course of the week. The gathering addressed the potential of local and regional governments to lead a smart recovery and contribute to the Common Agenda being defined by the United Nations.

The 2021 World Council saw the renewal of the UCLG Leadership, following the decision of President of UCLG Mohamed Boudra to not stand for re-election in the local elections in Morocco.

Consensus was reached on a proposal to continue building on the collegial approach that has guided the work of the Presidency since the Durban Congress. This collegial approach will be reinforced by clearly defined rotating responsibilities for the members of the Presidency, based on the policy agenda for which the representatives are responsible and on the international agenda linked to these responsibilities. The Governing Presidency will therefore rotate as follows:

- Between the World Council and the UCLG Annual Retreat, the week of 21 February: **Mayor of Kazan**.
- Between the Retreat and the high-level meeting on the review of the New Urban Agenda in April: **Mayor of Xi'an and Mayor of Iriga**.



- Between this meeting and our Executive Bureau in June: **Mayor of Soria and Mayor of San José.**
- Between the Bureau and the High-Level Political Forum in July: **Mayor of Konya and Mayor of Kitchener.**
- Between the Political Forum and Urban 20, in July-August: **Mayor of Paris and Mayor of Barcelona.**
- Between Urban 20 and the UCLG World Congress in October: **Mayor of The Hague.**

The first of the hybrid UCLG World Councils counted on the presence of key partners from UCLG. **Pilar Conesa**, Curator of the Smart City Expo World Congress, addressed the World Council in the opening session, arguing for the importance of hosting the World Council in the framework of Smart Cities, as the voice of cities needs to be at the centre of discussions around smart cities and territories.

The World Council also counted on the presence of important partners such as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights **Michelle Bachelet**, who praised the role of LRGs in combating inequalities and fostering the protection of human rights; commending the joint work with UCLG towards establishing a network of local and regional governments that protect human rights. Assistant Secretary-General for the United Nations **Volker Türk**, who commended the commitment of our constituency towards the UN Secretary General's Common Agenda. **Navid Hanif**, Director of Financing for Sustainable Development Office at UN DESA, provided their support to the advocacy and actions of UCLG.

The 2021 World Council has paved the way for our organization's gatherings in 2022: We have learned to navigate the hybrid dimension, we have renewed our leadership towards, and we are gearing up our collaboration with partners to deliver a Pact for the Future that is aligned with Our Common Agenda. As we head towards our Congress, the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders in Daejeon, we will be able to deliver an unforgettable experience.

## The UCLG Policy Councils galvanizing our political priorities

The **UCLG Policy Councils** gathered virtually twice this year: once at the beginning of 2021, and another in the period leading up to the World Council, building on the momentum gained by the **Urban October**.

The meetings of the UCLG Policy Councils acted not as an opening act for our World Council, but as an essential complement to it, bringing visions from mayors that would galvanize the themes addressed by

the councils; adapt our priorities to the current context; and bring the visions of local and regional leaders that care for some of the most crucial topics of the Urban Era.

The **Policy Council on the Right to the City and Inclusive Territories** addressed the need to develop intergenerational cities, and brought to the forefront the importance of designing cities for all for all that care for the more vulnerable communities, an issue that was already touched upon in the 2021 Executive Bureau, which had a moment to address inclusivity and designing our territories with and for elderly populations, and showed the more human dimension of UCLG with references to the Lampedusa Charter to reframe human mobility, developing alternatives to detention, and developing cities of peace by fostering non-violence.

The **Policy Council on Territorial and Multilevel Governance** tackled the need to ensure financial resources for local and regional governments which had suffered greatly under COVID-19 and how this could be achieved. The need to develop a broad consensus among spheres of government, empowering cities and territories to act and play a role in solving crises at the local level such as climate change, homelessness and lack of access to basic services; and a commitment to work among all spheres of government and with all actors were some of the key issues identified during the session. Participants also identified critical links with the other Policy Councils, in particular that of Opportunities for All, Culture, and City Diplomacy, highlighting the intrinsic relation between multilevel governance and development cooperation.

We came out of the Policy Council with the need to envision a multilevel response to the COVID-19 crisis, in particular one that involves all spheres of government and the civil society in an effort to truly leave no-one behind. This calls for considering the specific needs of cities and territories of all sizes, including financing for intermediary and smaller cities to maintain and foster critical infrastructures for basic services, and to renew tax frameworks to ensure a fairer distribution of wealth and a healthier service delivery environment.

The **Policy Council on Opportunities for All, Culture, and City Diplomacy** revolved around the issues of solidarity in connection to international action and to development cooperation. The Council built on the Peace Agenda of UCLG, with representatives highlighting its growing importance among the world organization, and the opportunity of developing a secretariat for the UCLG as city diplomacy as vital for peacebuilding, based on values and dialogue between different spheres of government.

Participants also brought to the table challenge of loneliness in relation to the use of public space, how the pandemic has deepened the loneliness crisis, in particular due to the toll it has taken on older populations. The Council also introduced the vision of libraries and cultural facilities as facilities that provide access to more than culture, insisting on their potential as public spaces and public services, allowing us to foster a conversation on the relationship between culture and basic services. Cultural spaces and education, if they are seen as services, can prove to be a transformational element that can help bridge inequalities, protect rights and enable us to build our societies in harmony with nature, bringing us closer to the concept of circular culture” included in the **Izmir Declaration**

The Policy Council on the **New Urban Agenda** was held in the framework of the Metropolis Congress, which allowed for the co-creation of a session with its sights set on the 2022 **Review of the New Urban Agenda and the Quito+5 Process**.

The discussion highlighted the importance of the New Urban Agenda not only in achieving sustainable development but in accelerating action to achieve other global agendas. Participants highlighted “the essence of the New Urban Agenda” as being based on a notion of development that takes into account towns and territories of all sizes, and in itself can be an accelerator of the climate agendas.

The importance of multilevel governance to achieve international policy processes such as the New Urban Agenda was not lost on the gathering of the council, emphasizing the intrinsic links between the work of this Policy Council and that of all of the others. The New Urban Agenda needs multilevel action, needs local and regional governments included in every step of the review and follow-up process, and needs that we join forces in international fora, among spheres of government, the civil society, Academia, and the private sector, to ensure we recover in an inclusive manner. The next step, participants argued, is to bring this spirit of partnership to the review process of the New Urban Agenda, and the convening of the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments.

In the context of the **Local and Regional Governments Day** that our constituency held during COP 26, the Policy Council on **Safer, resilient and sustainable cities**. During the **Local and Regional Governments’ Day**, UCLG was part of a delegation of local and regional governments in a closed meeting with the UN Secretary General, who called for strengthening the institutional relationship and partnership between our constituency and the UN System, highlighting COP27 as a milestone, and brandishing Our Common Agenda as the goal to reach.



The meeting of the Policy Council took place after a session that gathered UCLG and many networks of local and regional governments, including UCLG regional sections and the support of ICLEI, to call on city-to-city cooperation to ensure the success of the Paris Agreement. The Policy Council met at the end of the Local and Regional Governments Day, and in it participants weaved the relations between the agendas of the various Policy Councils, by arguing for the need to consider resilience across different agendas and multilateral processes, connecting with the Voluntary Local Reviews and the upcoming Stockholm+50, which will count with active participation of Local and Regional Governments.

Resilience and preparedness to crises, which themselves are topics that are linked with our rights and inequality agenda, were some of the key issues addressed as critical to address informality and to achieve territorial equality in urban, rural and arctic areas, for current and future generations.

## 2021 IOPD Conference

The conference of the International Observatory of Participatory Democracy (IOPD) had to adapt in 2021 to the pandemic context and the limitations for effective global mobilization. For this reason, the event organized by the city of Cocody and the technical secretariat of the IOPD had two strong moments: the face-to-face sessions that took place in Abidjan from October 20 to 22 and the virtual sessions from November 29 to December 2.

The theme of this edition was **sustainable cities/territories and participatory democracy** and the sessions held in Cocody were structured around four lines of work: local economic development; environment and citizen participation; right to the City; governance and participatory democracy. Throughout the different sessions: conferences, round tables and workshops, the need to involve citizens in the transformations and policies necessary to achieve more sustainable territories and cities in terms of equity and respect for the environment was confirmed. To achieve effective and efficient participation, local governments must take a leading role in collaboration with the academic and scientific world and with the existing civil society.

The event had a strong impact on the host country, as it was widely attended by local Ivorian authorities, as well as representatives of the national government. All confirmed the need to reinforce political and financial decentralization so that local governments have the capacity to be first-level actors in economic development with social justice and respect for the environment. Local governments need more and better

resources, both in terms of financial capacity and human resources and staff training.

Finally, in the virtual sessions, emphasis was placed on the importance of local governments as promoters of innovative democratic initiatives such as citizen assemblies, participation and co-creation processes or participatory budgets. There was a highlight on the role of transformative municipalism and their feminist approaches.

## WE LISTEN



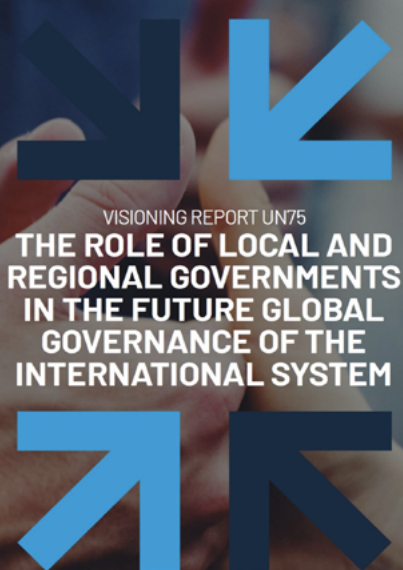
## OUR PARTNERSHIPS TO BRING TO LIFE THE PACT FOR THE FUTURE

### Special Partnership with the European Union

The first generation of the Special Partnership between UCLG and the European Union is coming to an end in 2022 and will be reconducted until 2027. UCLG World Secretariat has been active with the other Framework Partnership Agreements associations, including Platforma, CLGF, AIMF and UCLG-Africa in order to build the basis of the second-generation agreement. The UCLG World Secretariat is currently preparing the foundations of the next agreement, which will be closely linked with the renewed UCLG Strategic Plan for the next mandate.

Between May and November, UCLG has been actively participating to the European Commission and PFD consultations on global challenges, regional programming and inclusive multilateralism, and has brought the views of the members based on the report of the constituency to UN75.

OUR PARTNERSHIPS  
TO BRING TO LIFE  
THE PACT FOR THE  
FUTURE



VISIONING REPORT UN75  
THE ROLE OF LOCAL AND  
REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS  
IN THE FUTURE GLOBAL  
GOVERNANCE OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

UN75

GLOBAL  
TASKFORCE  
OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL  
GOVERNMENTS

UCLG  
CGLU



## The #CitiesAreListening Experiences Towards the renewal of our Town Hall

Local and regional governments have understood that the world that we are living in after the pandemic will never be the same. The road towards a “better normal” must consider those that care for our communities’ wellbeing as essential themes, and they need to be co-created with all stakeholders.



As an Equality driven movement, UCLG is determined to place communities, and the more vulnerable among them, at the core of urban planning. With the aim to breach territorial and urban inequalities, and transform the narratives around who cities are designed for, these themes are set to become an integral part of the Pact for People axis of the Pact for the Future that UCLG has been mandated to develop. The #CitiesAreListening process aims at bringing to life the UCLG Decalogue for the COVID era, and builds on our work with partners and the Town Hall Process initiated in Durban.

Within the framework of the 2nd UN Global Sustainable Transport Conference, UCLG and UITP organized a CitiesAreListening on “Increasing quality of life for people and for planet via sustainable urban mobility” to address the linkages between mobility and achieving sustainable development in the recovery with a special focus on the ecological transition and climate change, and social inclusion and equitable access to opportunities. The session helped ensure representation of the constituency within the framework of the official conference activities.



**United Cities @uclg\_org · 13 oct.** ...

**#CitiesAreListening 🗣️ #SustainableTransport**

"We should facilitate smooth, efficient, & smart **transport** to provide better public services to all. We'll join hands to promote sustainable urban development and create a beautiful world" 🇨🇳 Li Mingyuan, Mayor of Xi'an, UCLG Co-Pres.



世界城地组织联合主席、西安市...  
Co-President of UCLG, Mayor of Xi'an, Mr. Li Mingyuan  
Honorable Secretary General Ms. Emilia S...  
尊敬的赛兹秘书长

**UITP @UITPnews · 12 oct.** ...

Don't miss UITP & @uclg\_org's side event for the 2nd @UN Global Sustainable **Transport** Conference!

👤 Join '**#CitiesAreListening**: Increasing quality of life for people and for planet via sustainable urban mobility'

📅 13 October  
🕒 1-2 PM (CET)

Register now! [bit.ly/3AyUedV](https://bit.ly/3AyUedV)



**The #CitiesAreListening Live Experience**

**La Experiencia en vivo #CitiesAreListening**

**Expérience en direct #CitiesAreListening**




An experience on food systems, nutrition, and the climate emergency was held in partnership with Metropolis and UN-Habitat, the city of Barcelona, World Capital of Sustainable Food in 2021, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the World Sustainable Urban Food Centre (CEMAS). The session explored our relationship with the food that we eat through an exercise that presented the concept of “climavore” and the role of food environments in the post-pandemic age what they mean for our territories, and the strategies to ensure food systems are in service of our communities.



United Cities @uclg\_org · 21 oct.

🌟🌱 La alcaldesa de @Bogota, @ClaudiaLopez, destaca en la plenaria de clausura la importancia de desarrollar políticas de sistemas alimentarios basadas en datos y evidencia y en continuo diálogo con las organizaciones de sociedad civil #MUFPP



United Cities @uclg\_org · 21 oct.

🌟🌱 En la plenaria de clausura del 7º #MUFPP, el alcalde de @AjuntamentVLC, @joanribo comparte la importancia de políticas de sistemas alimentarios que incluyen a todos los tipos de territorios y actores



Moving forward, the #CitiesAreListening Experiences are integral to incorporating critical items in our agenda and to revitalize the dialogue with the civil society. Culture and the Rome Charter, Food systems and the climate crisis, health in cities beyond healthcare, and migration and universal access to basic services are also critical experiences that were explored through this format, expanding the focus of our work on these areas and incorporating the dimension of care in our advocacy efforts with civil society.

## Platformization – UCLG in the hybrid space

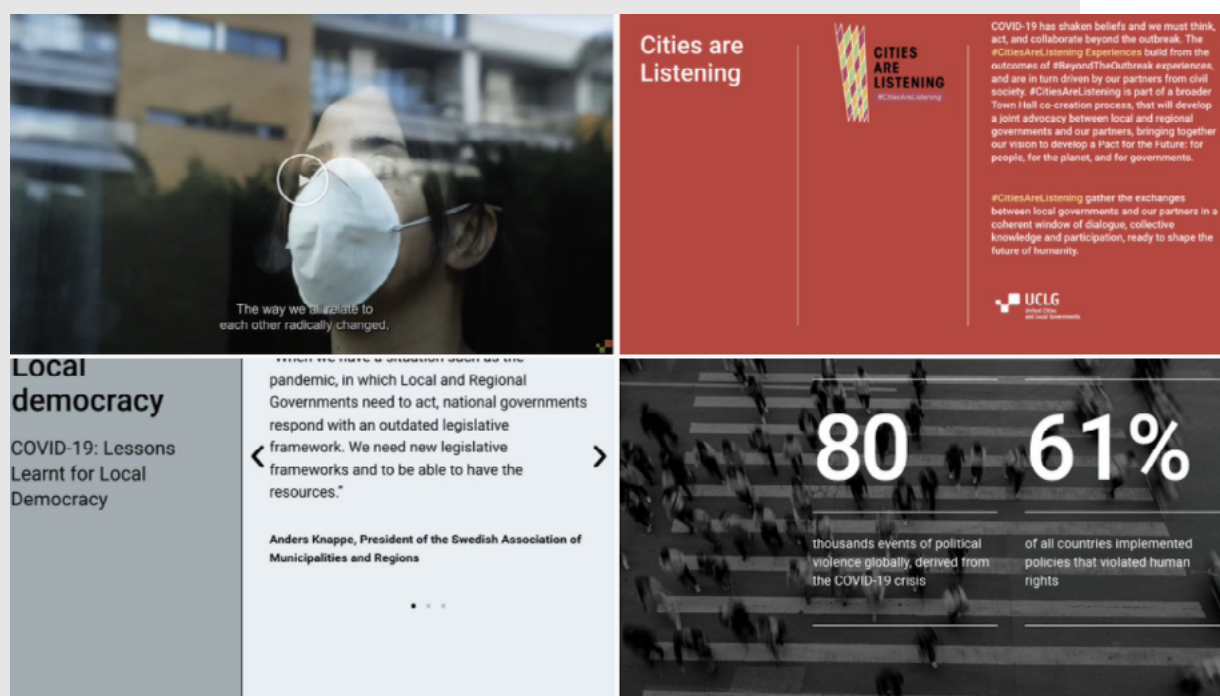
The concept of the “power of we”, explored during the Annual Retreat, has been evolving steadily during the year, bringing the dimension of care to all of our work areas. The “Power of we” platform will showcase the renewed narrative of UCLG, showing our work as an organization



that places care at the centre, and will allow UCLG to become a platform of platforms as we head towards the 2022 World Congress, delivering a renewed experience, and bringing all efforts together to deliver a Pact for the Future that is aligned with the UN Secretary General's Common Agenda, and is the backbone to deliver the universal goals we set for ourselves.

Beyond the “power of we”, UCLG will harness the potential of all of its other platforms to bring our presence in the digital space to the next level. Throughout the pandemic, our Live Learning Knowledge Hub allowed us to share local initiatives and knowledge as responses to the pandemic, and was critical to bring local inputs to agendas that are rapidly becoming our focus such as migration, health, peace, or development cooperation.

The next stage of this platform builds on these experiences and includes the outcomes of our #CitiesAreListening experiences, which highlight the potential of partnerships to transform the social contract. Our experiences with the civil society and all stakeholders will be critical to feed the Pact for the Future, and the #CitiesAreListening platform will be critical in this aspect, going beyond a repository of practices and feeding our advocacy areas in partnership with other actors.



The final pillar of our platformization stage is UCLGMeets. This platform has allowed us to continue co-creating and taking decisions virtually, as the pandemic has brought us to (first) virtual and hybrid decision-making scenarios. UCLGMeets has powered our statutory gatherings, including our first hybrid World Council, and will become an important component of our first hybrid World Congress.



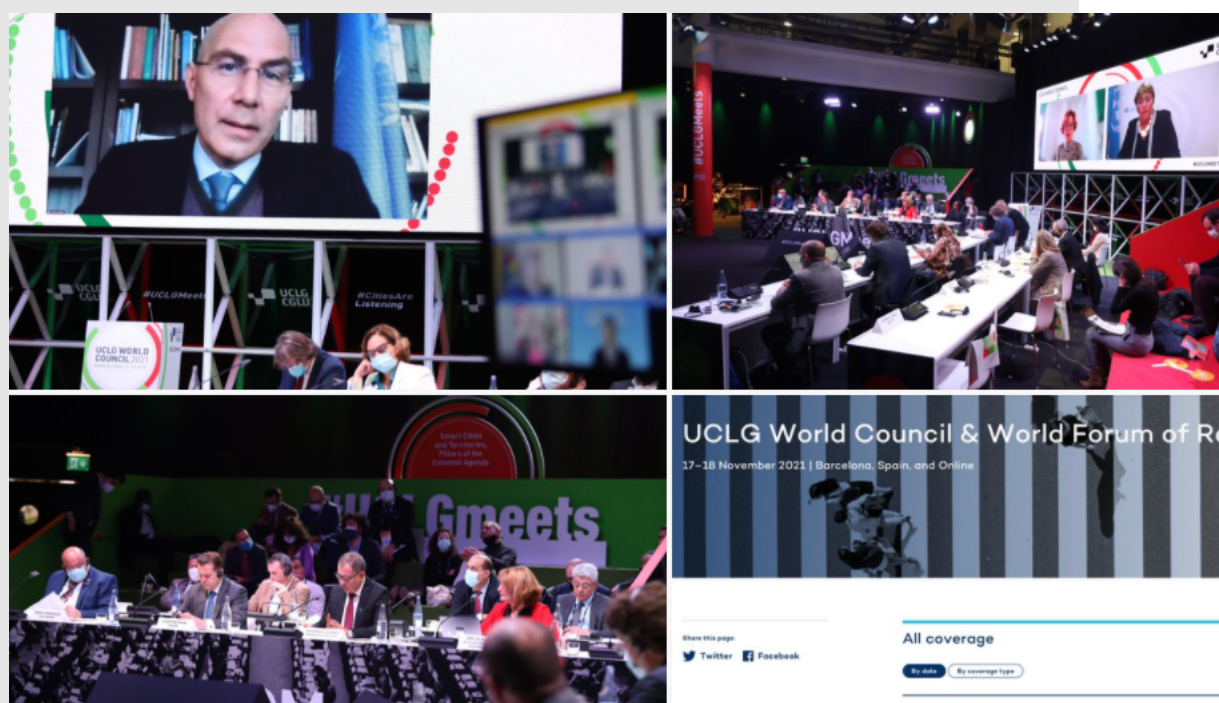
## Communication Campaigns and Outreach

**#Listen2Cities** was the campaign that accompanied the broader advocacy efforts of UCLG and the Global Taskforce at the High-Level Political Forum, as well as the broader hashtag that we adopted during the year. The HLPF campaign allowed UCLG and the Global Taskforce to be more present than ever in the UN's social media flux. During the Local and Regional Governments'. The campaign and hashtag also managed to engage other accounts within the UCLG family -such as the research team and other UCLG regional sections, and allow them to reach a broader public, and was utilized by the sister networks of the GTF.



Building on the Town Hall process and the #CitiesAreListening Experiences celebrated in 2021, the **#CitiesAreListening** hashtag has accompanied our conversations with other stakeholders, bringing more than 30 civil society organizations to the online conversation around the transformations that our communities need.

**#UCLGMeets** has accompanied us during our statutory gatherings and the first hybrid World Council held in the framework of Smart Cities Expo World Congress, a pioneering moment in which the conversations around the future of smart cities and territories and the future of the municipal movement converged. The **#CultureSummit** and **#IntermediaryCities** campaigns accompanied our first hybrid meetings of the year, in Izmir and in Kütahya, joining #UCLGMeets and symbolizing a return to finding each other physically again.



UCLG joined UN-led hashtags and campaigns this year, such **#Act4SDGs** campaign, meant to showcase what individual and collective actors are doing in order to raise awareness for the Global Goals, and co-led **#VeniceCitySolutions**. UCLG also accompanied the **#UrbanOctober** celebrations both on-line and with its activities, hosting the Policy Councils and bringing the perspectives of LRG to the global conversations around the future of urbanization. UCLG and the constituency of local and regional governments also joined #COP26 to call for raising ambitions, and including local and regional governments as part of

As part of the World Organization's advocacy around gender equality, the #CSW65 and #GenerationEquality campaigns were an integral part of the constituency's efforts at the meetings of the sixty-fifth session

of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65) and Generation Equality Forums in Mexico and in Paris, with UCLG's ecosystem being among the most influential accounts. As part and parcel of our gender equality effort, UCLG also joined the #OrangeTheWorld campaign on November 25th, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Our efforts to bring the new essentials to light was present through our campaigns on key issues for UCLG such as migration (under the **#ItTakesACommunity** and **#NotABorderTale** campaigns), accessibility (during the International Day of People With Disabilities), health (during Universal Health Coverage Day, through **#UHCDay** and **#HealthForAll**), emphasizing the importance of local democracy during Democracy Day or being a part of the Forum on Cities and Territories of Peace through **#CiudadesdePaz**.

In 2021 there has been an increase in digital contributions to national and international newspapers around the world such as in EL PAIS or Expansión, Le Matin, La Vanguardia, Le Monde, where the impact of our actions globally has been noted. Among our media partners we have had publications in Urbanet, CitiesToBe, and IISD, with full coverage of our most important statutory meetings such as the UCLG World Council, and actions recognized by the global community such as our UN75 Report and our contribution to the Common Agenda.

UCLG especially highlighted key messages of peace in our territories by synergising with the magazine of the Cities of Peace Forum and collaborating with other magazines of the network such as CEMAS to expand a local perspective on a range of issues including food security. UCLG has contributed to other member magazines such as the Bolivian Association of Municipalities or Bogotá

On the other hand, we have joined synergies with other spaces such as paradiplomacia.org, semana.com, or ciudadsostenible.eu expanding the sustainable experiences of our membership. In total, UCLG has generated over 2100 links

In total, our campaigns led to a growth of over 3280 followers in our Twitter account, with over 7.000.000 impressions, and more than 10800 visitors on LinkedIn.





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