



# Cities Are Listening

## #UCLG Congress

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# Introduction

The **World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders**, convened by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), is the largest gathering of mayors, presidents of associations, councillors, and local and regional practitioners from around the world. It is also the World Summit of the most influential local and regional leaders, councillors, local governments, partners, and actors implicated in the decision making of city and community life.

This year's edition will count on a renewed format and enhanced collaboration between members and partners.

Building on the century-old international movement of municipalities, the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders will include interactive and innovative formats built on four tracks that will guide participants through their World Summit experience, together with dedicated sessions for UCLG membership.

The triennial UCLG Congress also builds on the legacy of the commitments of the local and regional governments constituency around the world. A commitment to ensure a better future for all through action at local, national and international levels. A commitment to govern and build in partnership, a commitment for cities and regions to take their rightful place at the head of a new international agenda for inclusive and sustainable development.



# The cornerstones of the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders

## Re-thinking Local Democracy

Local and regional governments are currently the whistleblowers of risks for societies. We are warning about the effects of disorderly migration, of the lack of housing, of gentrification, of climate change, of the necessity for an ecological transition, and of the development of technologies that only benefit a few.

The constituency needs to be vigilant of developing mobility, public spaces and social infrastructures that provide cohesion and fair access for all groups of society, particularly those who are more vulnerable or marginalised.

Local and regional governments also aim to become the sentinels of the dreams, creativity and rights of the youth who look at the future with hopeful eyes -- the world at their fingertips, only if they are able to afford it, that is.

There cannot be peace if we do not foster intergenerational dialogues, if we do not work on trust, if we do not understand our differences, and learn

to deal with conflict in ways that do not always lead to violence.

The World Summit needs to be the stage where the constituency seeks guidance to ensure that communities around the world regain trust in their institutions.

The place for local and regional governments in the global governance structure is not an aim in itself. The key is governing in partnership, to develop the resilience that will allow us to face whatever challenges presented, and to face them as cohesive communities.

### **Thematic priorities of the constituency**

Facing challenges will necessitate working on the following priority areas:

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***Right to the City and Inclusive Territories***

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***Opportunities for All, Culture and City Diplomacy***

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***Territorial, Multilevel Governance and Sustainable Financing***

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***Safer, Resilient and Sustainable Cities, Capable of Facing Crises***

# The cornerstones of the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders

## Local and regional action at the heart of sustainable development

Local and regional governments (LRGs) understand the global agendas as one single universal framework addressing all of the planet's most urgent priorities. The 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework, the New Urban Agenda (among others) – an accelerator for implementation – constitute key assets.

Local and regional governments are driving a transformational spirit launched by the Global Agendas. Ownership of the global goals from the bottom-up, and shaping its definition and implementation at the local level will be critical to the achievement of the agendas.

Local and regional governments cannot be seen as mere witnesses of development or recipients of cooperation. Their capacity to catalyse action, as well as their technical and political barriers to achieving sustainable development must be tackled. The World Summit will showcase how localization

is a significant policy instrument and only through the political will of all stakeholders will we be able to implement the agendas in cities and territories to leave no one and no place behind.

**The World Summit will inspire local and regional leaders to define their solutions to the major challenges across the globe. It should also offer a space to present their cases, but most importantly it should allow the local and regional government constituency to strategize on the local contributions to the global goals.**

# The cornerstones of the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders

## New Era for Local and Regional Governments

The World Summit will allow our constituency to build strong links among communities, civil society, national governments, the international community and other stakeholders.

The World Summit will proactively offer a space for stakeholders and urban actors to participate and co-create, together, the future policies of the municipal movement and further, to drive home the point that transformation at the local level is intrinsically linked with stakeholder engagement and multi-level dialogue at global, regional and national levels.

**The World Summit will define the priorities of the local and regional leaderships and confirm their great potential as the sentinels of communities' hopes, dreams and expectations. Building the transformation of the global governance system will need to start with diversity, trust and a better way to organize life, leaving *no one* and *no place* behind.**

**The World Summit will consolidate the policies that the constituency has been promoting with a strong focus on local governments as representatives of communities and for communities. Special attention will be paid to strengthening democracy, the implementation of the right to the city and the development of an intergenerational agenda, so as to foster the idea that sustaining peace is a goal and a process to build a common vision of a society.**

# Four Tracks to lead us to Co-creation

This World Summit will not only serve as a meeting point for innovative dialogue on the global agendas from the LRG perspective, but for a renewed strategy for the municipal movement as a whole, and a renewed leadership of the World Organization.

There are 4 main tracks at the World Summit, each track designed to foster the dialogues to guide the debate and exchange process that will take place throughout the Summit, and to produce specific outcomes. UCLG core values of geographical and gender balance have been taken into consideration wherever possible.

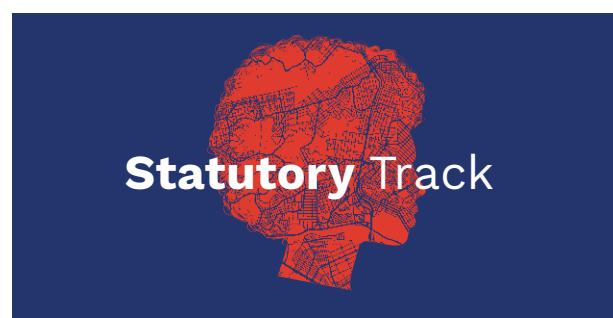
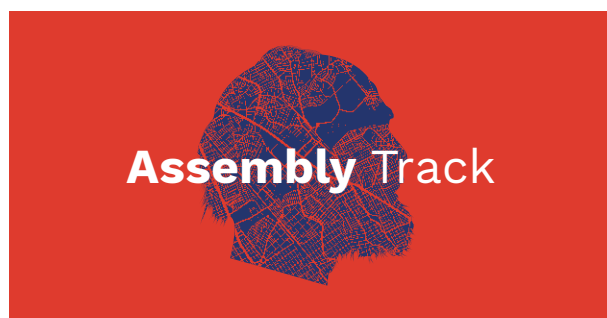
## **Co-creating our common environment**

**For years we have called for cities to be listened to, while at the same time understanding the importance of providing a space for dialogue that allows us to reflect on our policies and solutions. This will be the only way we can foster the transformation we need.**

**We want to take a step further and not only invite partners and stakeholders to join us, but to proactively participate in the formation of our global policies to shape the communities of the future.**

**Our quest for a seat the global table is not an aim in itself. It is about transformation of governance, about different decision making mechanisms with different stakeholders.**

**These outcomes, once debated at the Congress and presented to the World Assembly of LRGs, will help to guide the constituency into 2020, a crucial**



# Four Tracks to lead us to Co-creation

## Assembly Track Local Action For the People



This track will have local and regional government representatives as the key drivers. It aims at allowing continental, sectoral and thematic priorities that contribute to the global policies of the World Organization of Local and Regional Governments.

*UCLG Sections as well as sister organizations of local governments will be invited to develop position papers to be presented during the Assembly sittings.*

*The sittings will be organized in high level round tables organized continentally or by sector, based on positions papers developed on the run up to the Congress. The contents will be further submitted to the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments.*

### **The World Assembly**

**A session of the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments will be held during the World Congress. The World Assembly is convened by the Global Taskforce and plays a role in the follow-up of the New Urban Agenda, as recognized in the Quito Outcome Document.**

**The World Assembly is the mechanism through which the local and regional governments constituency deliberate and agree upon its political voice in the international agenda. In order to continue playing a key role as the political voice of local and regional governments in the definition, follow-up and review of the international agendas, the World Assembly will provide a space for dialogue that allows our constituency to reflect on our policies and solutions for the coming 3 years. The outcomes from the Town Hall sessions and the Assembly sittings will be presented, discussed and adopted by the World Assembly.**



# Four Tracks to lead us to Co-creation

## Town Hall Track Cities Are Listening



Civil Society partners will be in the driver's seat of this track. The Local and Regional Governments constituency recognizes the importance of collaboration with global partners. Thus, this track will be the space for dialogue and interaction between different internationally organized communities, civil society, and the political leadership of the local and regional governments constituency to define our global policies in an open format to debate and discuss policy papers on multiple themes. Different trails will be led by organised partners such as Global Platform for the Right to the City, Habitat International Coalition, World Enabled, the Huairou Commission, the General Assembly of Partners and Cities Alliance, and more.

The deliberations of the Town Hall will be on key policy areas:

- **Inclusive and Accessible Cities**
- **Gender Equality**
- **Right to the City**
- **Addressing Informalities**
- **Partnership for Urban Sustainable Development**

*Within the World Summit* open debates will take place throughout various sessions (each pertaining to the aforementioned themes) in an interactive discussion among several stakeholders including local government representatives.

The result of the deliberations will be presented to the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments.

# Four Tracks to lead us to Co-creation

## The Local4Action Track Share | Listen | Review



The Local4Action Track should be the space where everybody feels at home! It will provide the adequate format for all the spheres of the network, allowing partners to participate in a cooperative process to share, listen, and review.

Four different formats of sessions have been developed to accommodate all the experiences and ideas within the framework of the following policy areas: “Right to the City and Inclusive Territories”; “Opportunities for All, Culture & City Diplomacy”; “Territorial Multilevel Governance and Sustainable Financing”; “Safer, Resilient and Sustainable Cities, Capable of Facing Crises”.

- **Inspiring** \_  
*Get inspired and Inspire!*  
Inspirational sessions, LocalTALKS, small exchanges, presentations of experiences and project implementations, events, and product launchings, will compose this format so as to allow an idea, a statement, or an inspiration, to be expressed in this global platform of inspiring dialogue.  
**Open to individuals, professionals, influencers, Mayors, cities, etc.**
- **Local Policies & Voices** \_  
*Come and see what’s happening at the local level.*  
Taking a look at the processes and experiences of creation and co-creation of policy making in the city, and understanding the implication of all levels of governance and actors in urban sustainable development will compose this format. **Open to UCLG members, national governments, partners of UCLG, constituency members, and UCLG consultation mechanisms.**

- **Global Conversations** \_  
*Take a seat at the Global table!*  
Understanding the ongoing global conversations that address current trends and global challenges will be at the heart of this format, implicating the Global Taskforce, stakeholders, global partnerships, and high level representatives, opening the dialogue between life at the local level and the global conversation that impacts citizens’ lives.  
**Open to the Global Taskforce constituency, global institutional partners, stakeholders.**
- **Labs** \_*Interact and learn*  
This format will be dedicated to interactive sessions such as trainings and/or specific workshops. Sessions will typically have a longer duration.  
**Open to UCLG members, national government partners of UCLG, constituency members.**

### The Learning Forum

**The IV Learning Forum, taking place on Tuesday 12 November, will assess the state of learning within the network and formulate recommendations around key elements of the UCLG Learning Strategy (2019-2021). The full day gathering will be structured around our work in localizing the global agendas, encouraging peer-to-peer learning, and policy labs as a new line of action.**

# Four Tracks to lead us to Co-creation

## Statutory Track UCLG Decision Making



This track is for UCLG Members only. It comprises the meetings of the governing bodies that shape the policies and work plan of the World Organization of United Cities and Local Governments. This includes leading the charge for the renewal of the UCLG Leadership.

The Statutory track will include:

- **The Financial Management Committee**, which is appointed by the Executive Bureau, chaired by the elected Treasurer.
- **The Committee on Statutory Affairs**, which is appointed by the Executive Bureau and is in charge of reviewing any issues concerning the institutional work of the organization.
- **The Executive Bureau**, which is responsible for initiating proposals and carrying out the decisions of the World Council. It is in charge of the World Organization's administrative and financial management.
- **The General Assembly** (not to be confused with the World Assembly of LRGs) gathers all members of UCLG. It has the responsibility for the overall policy, direction and oversight of the World Organization. It appoints the World Council resulting from an electoral process lead continentally throughout the year previous to the Congress.
- **The World Council**, which is the principle policymaking body of the World Organization. The World Council elects the UCLG Presidency.

### The Spirit of the UCLG network at the centre stage

If you want to understand what makes our movement tick, Durban is the place to be! The World Summit will provide a privileged space for the work that the UCLG membership is developing and for some of our most iconic projects, including:

- The UCLG PEACE Prize 2019 will be awarded at the Durban Summit!
- The launch of the V Edition of the Global Observatory on Decentralization and Local Democracy (GOLD) report, dedicated to the Localization of the SDGs
- The UCLG Awards and Prizes on CULTURE and INNOVATION will be showcased
- The UCLG Learning Forum
- The presentation of UCLG videos, publications and training materials
- Special sessions driven by our Committees, Communities of Practice and Fora
- The UCLG Sections will hold caucuses, present priorities and showcase experiences focused on continental and strategic perspectives

# Legacy

The policy recommendations and positions gathered through the Assembly and Town Hall track will become the reference for future policy development, advocacy and work plans of both the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments and the World Organization of United Cities and Local Governments.

For the first time, the outcome of the Congress will not only be a unique declaration, but a series of integrated policy recommendations intended to guide the renewal of the overall UCLG Strategy moving into 2020 and beyond.

It should further inspire the work of the organized constituency of local and regional governments within the Global Taskforce.

## **The Heart of the World Summit experience: the Local4Action HUB**

**We are continually shaping this; come and share your ideas with us!**

The Local4Action HUB is an ecosystem. It is designed as a dynamic and relational space where the different tracks of the UCLG World Summit & Congress interconnect and interact. It is the place to pick up the discussions that have already begun prior to the Summit, meet face-to-face or digitally and take action oriented ideas forward. It is the place to keep brainstorming with the new ideas that are being shared in the World Summit and continue connecting with communities around the world.



# The Spirit of the World Summit



**Assembly Track**  
Local Action For the People

**The World Assembly**

- Africa
- Asia-Pacific
- Europe
- Metropolitan
- Middle-East and West Asia
- The Americas

**Town Hall Track**  
Cities Are Listening

**Inclusive and Accessible Cities**

- Gender equality
- Right to the City
- Addressing Informalities
- Partnership for Urban Sustainable Development

**Local4Action Track**  
Share | Listen | Review

**Inspiring**

- Local Policies & Voices
- Global Conversations
- Labs

**Statutory Track**  
UCLG Decision Making

**The Financial Management Committee**

- The Committee on Statutory Affairs
- The Executive Bureau
- The General Assembly
- The World Council

# Programme overview

Day 5 — Fri 15 Nov	Local4Action HUB	Town Hall	World Assembly of Local & Regional Governments	Intergenerational Dialogues For Peace and Solidarity	UCLG World Council	Official Closing Celebration: Towards Cities as Places for Happiness
	Local4Action	Assembly				
Day 4 — Thu 14 Nov	Local4Action HUB	Town Hall	Localizing Sustainable Development	Town Hall	UCLG General Assembly	
	Local4Action	Assembly		Assembly		
Day 3 — Wed 13 Nov	Local4Action HUB	Committee on Statutory Affairs	Reinventing Local Democracy	Executive Bureau	Official Opening Celebration: Local and Regional Governments Sentinels of Dreams.	
	Local4Action	Town Hall		Local4Action		
Day 2 — Tue 12 Nov	UCLG Learning Forum	Section Caucus	Local4Action HUB	Financial Management Committee Meeting	Discovering Durban	
	Local4Action					
Day 1 — Mon 11 Nov	Local4Action HUB				Discovering Durban	
	Local4Action					

- Discovering Durban
- Town Hall Track
- Statutory Track
- UCLG Learning Forum
- Lunch Service Window
- Assembly Track
- Local4Action Track
- Local4Action Track
- Opening/Closing



**See you in Durban!**

Still have questions about the UCLG World Summit, or have an idea you'd like to share? Please feel free to reach out to our coordination team with any inputs, comments, questions or concerns:

[durban2019@uclg.org](mailto:durban2019@uclg.org)

You may also visit our website for more in depth information, and for the most recent updates:

[www.durban2019.uclg.org](http://www.durban2019.uclg.org)



**Share  
Listen  
Review**



**Local Action For  
and By the People**



**Cities Are Listening**

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