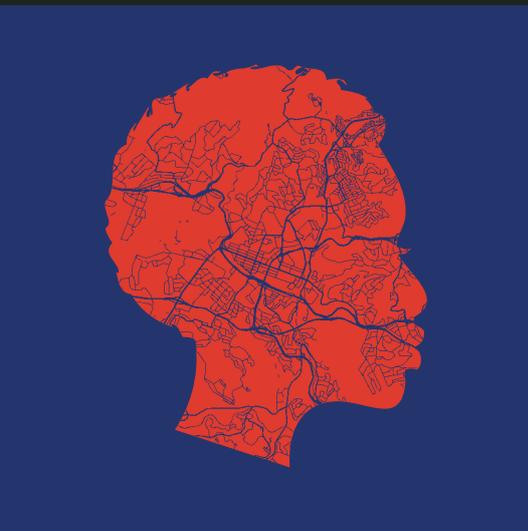# Report of the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders Durban 2019

Kickstarting the Localization Decade at our
World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders

UCLG
CGLU

Report World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders Durban 2019

Kickstarting the Localization
Decade at our World Summit
of Local and Regional Leaders

UCLG CGLU

LOCAL 4 ACTION HUB by UCLG

SOUTH AFRICAN LOCAL
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
SALGA
Inspiring service delivery

ETHEKWINI
MUNICIPALITY

Summary

1 The largest world gathering of the municipal world

The UCLG World Summit is the largest gathering of mayors, councilors, presidents of local associations, and local and regional practitioners, from around the world. The triennial gathering is designed to bring the world organization's constituencies together to review and build on a legacy of commitments and advance UCLG's role in shaping the multilateral agenda from a local and regional perspective.

The gathering is the true cornerstone of our movement and organization, with the 2019 edition striving to become a reunion relevant to the members of UCLG, to the movement and to the world. With over 3,000 elected officials, members of the civil society, partners and other stakeholders, the Congress showed the full strength of our movement, the diversity of our organization, and our capacity to work with others and to strike a balance between the great matters of our time and the day to day business of our communities and our neighborhoods.

"Today we have a historical opportunity:
that of bringing about a new solid model of economy
and finance, anchored in the territories and serving
their interests in a sustainable and resilient way."

Mohamed Boudra, Mayor of Al Hoceima, UCLG President.

A new era for local and regional governance

> **"The next decade will need to see us stronger, will see our conviction about becoming crucial partners, & demonstrate that another is possible, & that it's in our hands to make it happen."**

Parks Tau, Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs UCLG President 2016-2019

Local and regional governments 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.

Communities, citizens, and LRGs cannot be seen as mere witnesses of development or recipients of cooperation. Local and regional governments have long 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.

"Governance associated with coexistence in our cities, seriously with problems of common threats. UCLG will continue to be a factor that helps local governments to help coexistence."

Johnny Araya, Mayor of San José, UCLG Co-President.

"Generating female leadership in local and regional governments comes with capacity-building and specific programmes and mechanisms"

Thembisile Nkadimeng, Mayor of Polokwane, Co-president of UCLG

Our Congress provided an alternative space for our constituency to organize with stakeholders and co-create, together, the tools for the next decade of the Municipal movement. Throughout the Summit, our World Organization aimed to secure a space of structural dialogue with all stakeholders, to strengthen local democracy, and to develop an international agenda for the movement.

The World Summit allowed our constituency to build strong links among communities, civil society, national governments, the international community and other stakeholders, and drove home the point that transformation at the local level is intrinsically linked with stakeholder engagement and multi-level dialogue both at global, regional and national levels.

Equality, local finance, the agenda of intermediary cities, the need to revisit local democracy, the role of local governments in building peaceful societies, as well as constructing a new narrative on migration are some of the key areas that our Summit addressed, building on the work that our communities had already been leading, and envisioning the future of these key issues through our **manifesto**.

Durban was the scene in which we presented to the world the renewed type of leadership that can make future generations thrive, and where we showcased our **municipalist agenda**, forged through a century of collaborations. This patrimony will allow our societies to undergo the transformation that we need to become a sustainable, fair, and inclusive planet driven by solidarity.

The Summit will define the prioritiesof 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 organise life, leaving no one and no place behind

The Durban Political Declaration — The next frontier of the movement
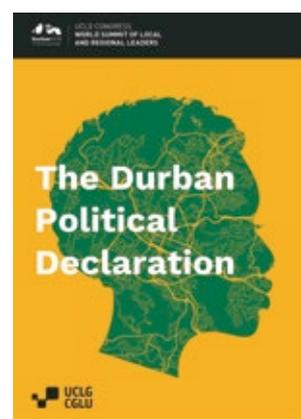
— The transformation that will need to be brought about in our development model will only be possible if it reponds to the dreams and expectations of citizens and communities and if collective responsibility is taken to adjust and make compromises on a fair, equal and sustainable basis"

Preamble to the Durban Political Declaration

On Friday, 15 November, the UCLG Congress and World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments adopted the Durban Political Declaration, "Envisioning the Future of Our Renewed International Municipal Movement," as one of the main policy outcomes from the Summit.

"We cannot make peace ideological, we must make it practical."

Jan Van Zanen, Mayor of Utrecht, UCLG Co-President.

With sections on the next frontier of the international municipal movement, local ownership for the future of humanity, a new social contract, and on universality and solidarity, the Declaration sets out the conviction of the LRGs and their associations that the transformation needed in the world's development model is only possible if it responds to communities with sufficient collective responsibility in the form of political adjustments and compromises based on fairness, equality and sustainability.

The Durban Municipalist Declaration is the way in which the municipal movement will face global trends: by remaining firmly attached to the movement's origins and the protection and fostering of local democracy, loyal to the principles of decentralization, subsidiarity, gender equality, self-government and accountability; commitments to equality, diversity and universality and a tran-

sition from an international to an interdependent interurban and solidary local governments system, with the protection of living beings and ecosystems as its core agenda; recognition that poverty and inequality remain at the core of most problems worldwide; the catalyzing force of cities and regions, and the rural-urban continuum in amplifying and scaling up action; the critical role of driving changes in consumption and production to deliver inclusive and fair services for the preservation of the commons, and human rights; and approaching advances in the fourth industrial revolution.

Local ownership and the future of humanity, the Declaration addresses: the movement's facilitation of a local-global platform to facilitate recognition that local issues can no longer be solved solely at the local level; renewal of the movement's bottom-up engagement in pursuit of inclusive and just societies appropriate to con-

"Sustainable urban centers bring a better quality of life. It's of greatest concern of all UCLG members. Let us work together & learn from each other to create sustainable cities for our shared future."

Lee Mingyuan, Mayor of Xi'an, Co-President of UCLG

> "The most important aspect for the Sendai Franework is capacitation. We need to encourage more cities to follow this framework to get things done. We also need community participation to get things done"

Madelaine Alfelor-Gazman, Mayor of Iriga

ditions across different continents; recognizing that enhancing the voices of LRGs internationally is not an aim in itself; a new financial paradigm that will leave no one and no place behind; partnerships with the private sector and academia to co-create cities and territories committed to promoting local knowledge and expertise to harness co-production of data and data-informed cities and territories; and recognition that the 2030 Agenda represents an opportunity to renew the social contract, and for the movement to make the global agenda localized and locally-owned as a prerequisite for its successful implementation.

On Agenda 2030 and paving the way to a new social contract, the Declaration addresses: the right to housing as a core priority and the Cities for Adequate Housing Declaration, with greater powers to regulate real estate; fostering solidarity through a rights-based approach to migration; renewing democracy and citizenship to rebuild trust between communities and institutions; using local and territorial approaches to rethink and reshape governance as increasingly called for by citizens and social movements; defense of public representatives and execise of public service; and intergenerational dialogues and peace.

On **universality and solidarity**, the Declaration commits the movement's members and associations to: further collaborative and peer-to-peer action and learning for the

> "Alleviation of poverty, sustainable economy, sustainability, strengthening institutions and promotion of gender equality are at the core. Municipalities are taking leadership role!"

Berry Vrbanovic, Mayor of Kitchener, UCLG Treasurer

Decade of Implementation of the SDGs; the dissemination of the movement's messages and the achievement of cohesion and solidarity through learning, decentralized cooperation and city diplomacy, using innovative methodologies and new tools to upscale knowledge and cooperation.

The Declaration reaffirms the World Summit's commitment to active participation of subnational government networks and the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments and ecosystems of organizations. It further reaffirms the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments as the true platform to reflect local and regional voices and perspectives; and acknowledges the intentions and content put forward in the Declaration as the "municipalist agenda."

> "It's important to give priority to policies and projects such as localizing international policies, such as sustainable development goals, and monitoring them by local governments in our agenda"

Uğur İbrahim Altay, Mayor of Konya, Co-President of UCLG

2 How was the meeting organized?

The organization of the 2019 World Summit reflects the UCLG's convening power at the heart of a "network of networks," reaching deep into multiple constituencies to facilitate an act of policy co-creation.

Mobility

Ecological transition

Migration

Localizing the SDGs

Cities are Listening

🚲 Town Hall Track

Territorial, Multilevel Governance and Sustainable Financing

GOLD V

Right to the City and Inclusive Territories

Housing

Resilience

Share Listen Review

🚌 Local4Action Track

Gender equality

Reinventing Local Democracy

UCLG Peace Prize

Culture

Peace and solidarity

Intergenerational dialogue

UCLG Learning Forum

Urban violence

Local finance

UCLG Decision Making

🚲 Statutory Track

Safer, Resilient and Sustainable Cities, Capable of Facing Crises

Open government and transparency

Local Action For the People

🚌 Assembly Track

Opportunities for All, Culture and City Diplomacy: Keys to Sustainable Development and Peace

For this reason, the Congress agenda had multiple tracks to facilitate structured dialogues, including the:

Assembly Track	Led by local and regional government representatives;
Town Hall Track	Led by civil society;
Local4Action Track	An inclusive and collaborative space to bring together different spheres of the networks;
Local4ActionHub	An informal networking space and venue for launching flagship initiatives, bringing together representatives of different tracks;
Statutory Track	Meetings for official bodies of the UCLG.
Special Sessions	Thematic meetings focusing on some of the UCLG's priority policy areas; and
Special Sessions	Learning interaction opportunities focusing on key elements of the UCLG Learning Strategy 2019-2021.

The organization of the 2019 World Summit reflects the UCLG's convening power at the heart of a "network of networks," reaching deep into multiple constituencies to facilitate an act of policy co-creation.

The first two days were dedicated to preparatory and networking sessions. On Wednesday, the Congress convened its first plenary session and had its official opening. On Thursday, a second plenary, and a meeting of the UCLG General Assembly – the membership body responsible for policy – took place. A third plenary took place on the final day of the Summit, on the theme of intergenerational dialogue. Other sessions on the final day included the WALRG, a meeting of the UCLG World Council, and the official closing ceremony.

3

Building on key themes for our movement at our plenary sessions

Localizing the global agendas has been at the core of our work for the last three years. The reinvention of local democracy, and peace-building are some of the key themes of our movement, and have been making a comeback to UCLG. The UCLG World Summit, through its plenaries, addressed these topics co-developed political recommendations and elevated the discourse on what to expect when addressing the reinvention of **Local Democracy**, the need to establish **Intergenerational Dialogues** to secure peace and prosperity, and the steps to take to secure the **Localization of Sustainable Development**.

3.1
Reinventing Local Democracy

Reinventing local democracy is imperative, if we are to face the democratic challenges that our communities are facing around the world. This reinvention needs to come from the ground, from the local level, representing our communities, in dialogue with our communities, for our communities, and for the sustainability of our world, to ensure it remains a place in which we can live with rights, responsibilities, and freedoms.

> **"Municipalism is the proof that there is another way of doing politics, putting life in the center and making our communities the protagonists."**

Ada Colau, Mayor of Barcelona, Special envoy to the United Nations

Moderated by Sanjay Pradhan, CEO, Open Government Partnership, the session addressed how to truly build trust among spheres of governments, via public involvement in municipal budgeting; citizens overseeing and reporting on public policy implementation; the maintenance of a lobbying register to curb interest-peddling; and how to empower those who have been forgotten by institutions. The plenary also addressed the role of decentralization as fundamental for democracy as well as the role that citizen commitment and participation must play; the effects of populism on (local) institutions and local democracy; the declining quality of democracy; and the relationship between social and economic rights.

3.2

Localizing Sustainable Development: Gearing up to the Implementation Decade and GOLD V

The 2030 Agenda and its transformative spirit are holding the key of a sustainable home for all of us, but for the goals to be achieved, they need to be owned at the local level. **This is what localization is, at its core: a bottom-up proces**s, aiming to build and shape global agendas based on the aspirations and wishes of the communities. UCLG will further launch the V Report of the Global Observatory on Decentralization and Local Democracy, which assesses national strategies for the implementation of the Global Agendas in each world region.

"Cities, especially because of their proximity to citizens, are key to tackling climate and sustainability challenges in our planet."

Fernando Medina, Mayor of Lisbon, UCLG Co-President.

The Plenary marked the launch of the GOLD V report, the flagship report on the state of decentralization around the globe, which assesses the contribution of LRGs to the localization of the SDGs and the national and regional institutional contexts in which LRGs operate. Participants welcomed the role of UCLG in supporting municipalities to localize the SDGs through local government associations organized at the national level, especially through its learning section, and opportunities to forge stronger links with other cities and towns.

The plenary also addressed the value of practical examples and peer to peer exchanges and highlighted the SDGs as a broad normative framework to establish change and allowing from engaging from the bottom-up to rebuild institutions. The need to overhaul the global financial system so as to reframe incentives, aligned with the SDGs and the need for institutional reform, with a seat at the global decision-making table for local and regional governments were an inherent part of the discussions.

3.3
Intergenerational Dialogue for Peace and Solidarity

Cities are where creativity happens, and where dreams are fulfilled, but they can also prove to be places of exclusion, frustration and conflict. In order to make our cities spaces of peace, we need to develop more than the absence of war. Dialogue should be the cardinal rule of today, for the sake of tomorrow. The UCLG Peace Prize that will be presented aims to shed light on the heroic local governments that are brave enough to carry out peacebuilding initiatives, often without any outside help.

"UCLG provides an excellent platform for broader dialogue. We need to expand our connections in the world. Mayors alone cannot solve the challenges that they face."

Ilsur Metshin Mayor of Kazan, Chairperson of the United Nations Advisory Committee for Local Authorities (UNACLA)

Plenary IDialogue UCLG Peace Prize

Moderated by Vasu Gounden, Executive Director, ACCORD. Tamires Gomes Sampaio, Director of Lula Institute, Sao Paolo, Brazil, the session emphasized that, indeed, our understanding of peace peace is not only about absence of war, but about absence of inequality, poverty, and unemployment. Representatives of our constituency shared experiences on on social and environmental issues and on how they were endeavoring to reduce inequalities.

The role of the youth in democratic societies as leaders for change, and the duties of democratic institutions to include young people in decision-making processes were also highlighted during the Plenary, as was the role of institutions in promoting gender equality to ensure that no-one, and no place, were left behind.

4 Co-creation led by our regional sections: The Assembly Track

Led by each of our regions, the Assembly Track was introduced as a dedicated policymaking track for continental, sectoral, and thematic priorities that contribute to the global policies of our World Organization. Structured in high-level roundtable discussions, each of the sessions were convened by one of our Regional Sections (Africa, Europe, Eurasia and Pacific, the Americas, MEWA, and Metropolis) and based on position papers developed prior to the Summit that addressed their regional concerns and themes.

Structured in high-level roundtable discussions, each of the sessions were convened by one of our Regional Sections (Africa, Europe, Eurasia and Pacific, the Americas, MEWA, and Metropolis) and based on position papers

During the Summit, the political leadership of our regional sections presented the priorities and the actions adopted at the local level in each world region, in a non-stop track that ran over two days The Track will be organised in high-level roundtables led by each section, allowing for direct exchanges between the delegations. The recommendations resulting of the sessions were then provided to the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments and fed the newly elected Presidency of the World Organization.

4.1
Decentralization and Local Finance

This assembly was led by UCLG-Africa and discussed how to support decentralization and financing of LRGs to enhance their capacity to act on the global agenda. Chaired by Léandre Nzue, President, UCLG-Africa, the session discussed: the rapid growth of Africa's urban population; the design of sustainable cities; targeting finance; access to credible credit rankings; the relations between subnational and national authorities; innovative financial instruments, including green bonds; and the use of digital technology to support transparent revenue collection.

4.2
Aligning Local Priorities with the 2030 Agenda, and the Right to the City

This assembly was led by Europe. The session examined ways in which European municipalities and regions are implementing the SDGs, with the participation of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), Mayors and representatives of the European Commission, and UCLG-Africa. Chaired by Marlène Siméon, Director, European Platform of Local and Regional Authorities for Development, the session addressed obstacles to the achievement of the SDGs, migration policy; equal access to health services, gender and participatory democracy; the alignment of EU policies with the SDGs; and the importance of strengthening global networks for local authorities.

4.3
Resilience, Urbanization and Heritage

This assembly was led by Eurasia and Asia-Pacific (ASPAC) sections. The session considered resilience and disaster risk reduction, notably the Sendai framework localization strategy, with the participation of Mayors, and other representatives of UCLG-ASPAC, against the threats presented by a rise in natural or human-made disasters. Facilitated by Dave Cull, Co-President, UCLG-ASPAC, the session addressed: rapid population growth in Eurasian cities; a call on UCLG to play a role in attracting finance for international financial institutions for investment in cities; balancing industrial development and environmental protection; UCLG's work on heritage and conservation; the co-benefits of climate change mitigation; localization of the SDGs; and UCLG regional advocacy.

4.4
Multilevel Governance and National/Continental Advocacy

This assembly was led by the Americas. The session focused on the next steps to ensuring a multilevel and multi-stakeholder governance and strategies for national and continental advocacy. Facilitated by Paola Andrea, Deputy Director, Intendencia de Montevideo, the session addressed: the governance crisis in Latin America, the impact of poverty and inequality on the ability of people to live together; mistrust in political institutions, and the special role of local governments in engaging directly with citizens, and, with a focus on gender, the impact of poverty on women and children. The session agreed key messages on: re-engineering multilevel governance; social innovation; and the role of the UCLG in enhancing the role of local governments globally.

4.5
Migration Management and Peace Building

This assembly was led by the Middle East and West Asia (UCLG-ME-WA). Facilitated by Mehmet Duman, Secretary-General, UCLG-ME-WA, the session explored the relationship between migratory movements, the consolidation of peace at the local level, and the need for social cohesion policies. Issues raised in the discussions included the need to address: social inclusion; the different needs of refugees and migrants; empowerment of local governments to act on the SDGs; and regional solidarity.

4.6
Public Space and Demographic Challenges

This assembly was led by Metropolis, the metropolitan section of UCLG. The session considered demographic growth in urban areas and the role of LRGs in addressing issues around public space. Facilitated by Xavier Tiana, Metropolis, the session addressed: reconciling the economic growth and competitiveness of urban areas with sustainable development; UCLG's role in mobilizing collaboration; and the experience of exclusion as part of urbanization. Discussion also took place on citizen dissatisfaction with political institutions no longer appropriate to the demands of society in the 21st century.

Position papers developed prior to the Summit that addressed their regional concerns and themes.
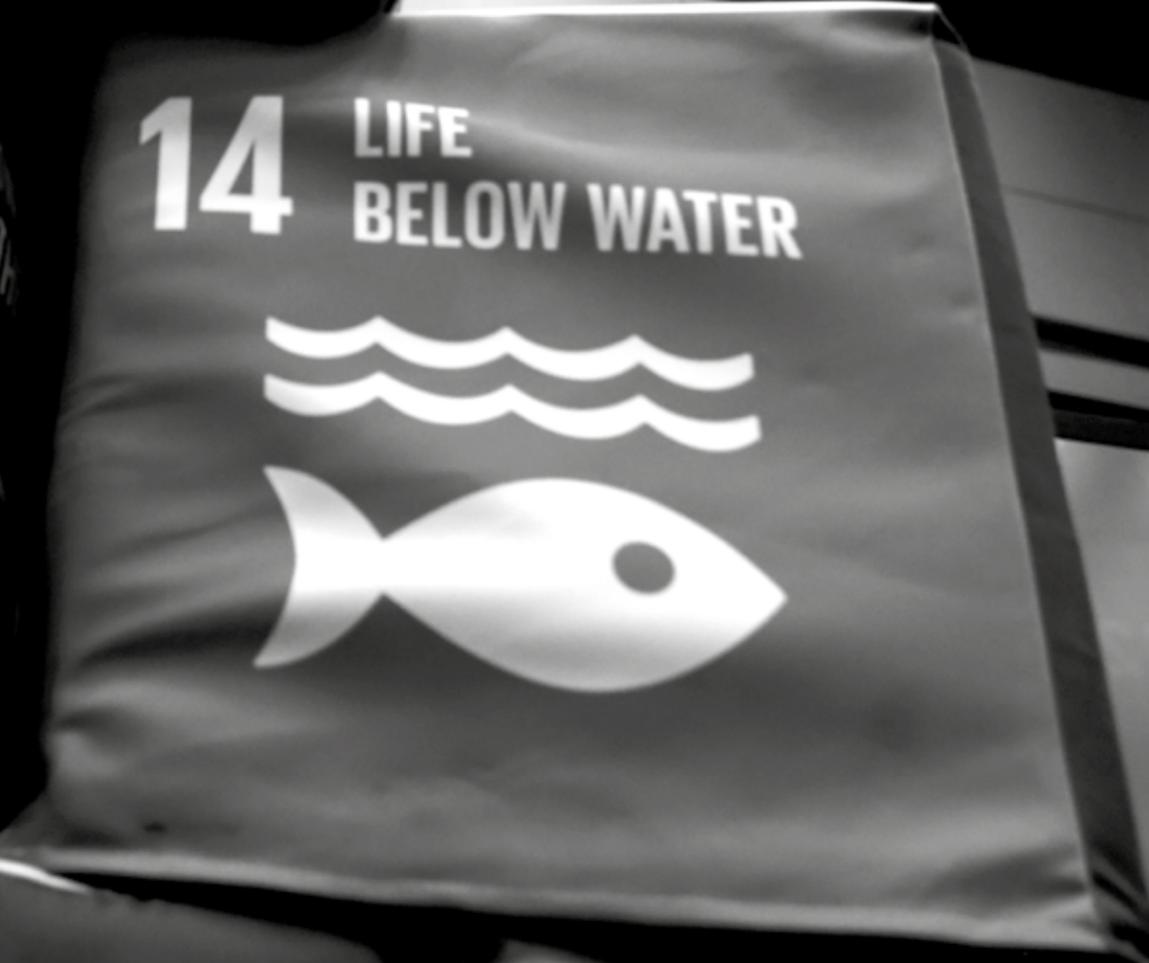
1. Europe
2. EurAsian-Pacific
3. Latin America
4. Middle East
5. Metropolis
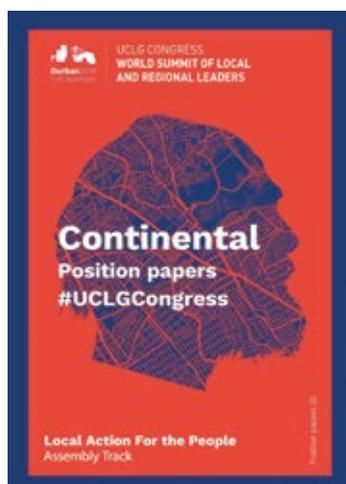
5

Collaboration with the Civil Society — The Town Hall Track

The Town Hall is the space for dialogue and interaction between different internationally organized civil society and the political leadership of the local and regional governments constituency to jointly define our global policies.

This is the reason why our the **Town Hall** was driven by our partners from the civil society. Different trails were 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. Each of these groups elaborated policy recommendations for local and regional governments, and to be presented to the **World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments**.

Our goal is not only to invite partners and stakeholders to join us, but to collaborate in the world that we are building in order to achieve the ambitious goals that we set out for ourselves

5.1
Accessible and Inclusive Cities

This town hall was led by World Enabled, and explored how local leadership can promote universal design principles in line with the six pillars of the Global Compact on Inclusive and Accessible Cities. Discussions kicked off with a presentation by María Soledad Cisternas Reyes, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility, who stressed that accessibility is a bridge to inclusion and securing diverse rights. The session moderators highlighted recommendations in the policy paper on this topic, which includes a call to the world organization to establish a Community of Practice on Accessible Cities to foster peer-learning on universal design policies. In their discussions, participants underscored that investing in accessibility provides an opportunity to maximize the potential of all citizens, including people living with disabilities and older persons. Noting that most countries have accessibility regulations but struggle with implementation, participants proposed solutions such as: involving civil society to sustain good practices beyond electoral cycles; training architects and urban planners in universal design; and raising awareness on the inherent dignity and rights of all people.

> "We women want to be different, but not unequal. Urban planning -the way we look at the city, the territories, the neighborhood- is designed under a concept of neutrality."

Ana Falu, UCLG UBUNTU Adviser

5.2
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

The town hall was led by the Huairou Commission and partners, who introduced a policy paper making the case that gender equality and women's empowerment are fundamental to producing and nurturing just and prosperous communities, and are enablers of efficient and accountable local governance. Female mayors from Brazil, The Gambia, Italy and Sweden spoke on achievements, as well as challenges facing women leaders. Among other issues, they lamented the growing backlash against female politicians, especially on social media, and stressed the need to reach out to women in both urban and rural areas. In the ensuing discussion, participants highlighted, inter alia, the importance of strengthening networks for sharing information and best practices, and ensuring the further institutionalization of local consultative processes to mainstream gender in local government structures.

"Human Rights provide local governments a strategy, concrete targets and deadlines. That's how you know everything you are doing will get you to the real goal: ensuring the #Right2Housing for everybody."

Leilani Farha, UCLG Ubuntu Adviser, UN Special Rapporteur right 2 Housing

5.3
Right to the City

This town hall was led by Habitat International Coalition and drew on a thematic policy paper that calls for viewing human settlements through a rights-based lens, with a focus on six themes: "financialization" of cities and housing; the rural-urban divide; territorial and social inequalities; democratic backsliding and human rights curtailment; migratory movements; and resilience. Leilani Farha, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing, made the case for building an alternative movement, which she called "The Shift," stating it is necessitated by the "whole slew" of violations against human rights that have come with intensive urbanization. The ensuing discussions underscored the need to question assumptions about what constitutes an attractive or competitive city, with the observation that viewing cities from a human rights lens calls for more polycentric and human-scale approaches. Among measures that cities can take to counter growing exclusion and poverty, speakers called for: valuing the social, not just economic, function of land to reduce speculation; and providing spaces for excluded groups to access services and participate in governance processes.

5.4
Sustainable Urban Development

This town hall was led by the General Assembly of Partners (GAP), and opened with representatives of the eight constituent groups highlighting key messages in the thematic position paper. They noted, among other principles, the importance of: having a shared vision; being inclusive and respectful; building trust; having a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities; and monitoring progress. A round of "Lightning Presentations" then took place, highlighting good partnership practices from around the world. In conclusion, participants developed some messages for the World Assembly. They included suggestions on mechanisms to enhance transparency in partnerships, such as: requiring any party participating in the GAP to sign up to an ethical code; agreeing on the value-added of a project prior to implementation; and capacity building to reduce asymmetries in information and power within partnerships.

5.5
Addressing Informality in Cities

This town hall was led by the Cities Alliance, Slum Dwellers International and Habitat for Humanity International, who described the thematic position paper as a clarion call to local leaders, with recommendations on: strengthening access to land, services, and livelihood opportunities; national safeguards for development projects in cities to do no harm; recognizing residents of informal areas as full and equal citizens; and promoting evidence-based planning. The session highlighted examples from cities such as Freetown, Porto Alegre, and Ramallah, that are addressing exclusion in cities through changing the narrative on informal settlements as unsafe and dangerous places to places of social innovation and vibrant economies. Issues raised in the discussions included: how to safeguard the tenure rights of excluded groups in slum upgrading projects; innovative solutions to expand financial inclusion in housing markets; and negotiating with more affluent residents to recognize the need for integration in cities, including through shared public spaces. The session closed with a reminder that a new narrative is not enough in itself, as enabling policy frameworks and structured engagement of citizens is needed.

6

Envisioning the future: Manifestos for the implementation decade

The Special Sessions that took place within the World Summit debated the future of policies that were already a part of our work and set to become key emerging issues for the future of the planet. The sessions were geared towards developing a **Manifesto** with specific recommendations for the Network. Our sister networks, national governments, and international organizations such as UN-Habitat were part of the sessions and contributed to this collective knowledge.

The **manifestos** will influence the broader constituency of local and regional governments and enable us to consolidate our collective voice before the international systems, increase ownership among our members and strengthen our collective vision in some of the themes that will be of importance in the coming decades.
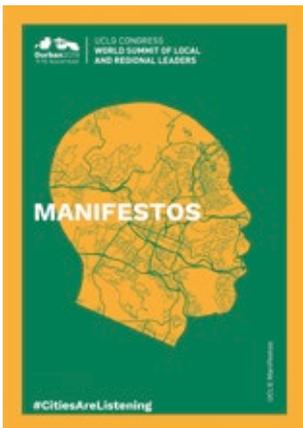
Manifestos

1. The Future of Biodiversity
2. The Future of Culture
3. Ecology for the Future
4. The Future of Resilience
5. The Future of Housing
6. The Future of Local Finances
7. The Future of Migration
8. The Future of Mobility
9. The Future of Equality: Beyond Beijing+25
10. The Future of Transparency and Open Government

6.1

The Future of Transparency and Open Government

Co-creating open, inclusive, transparent, sustainable and inclusive territories: This session considered the role of democracy in development, quality of life and peaceful co-existence. Other issues discussed were governance in terms of striking a balance between representative and participatory democracy and the promotion of gender-sensitive local government.

The manifesto argued that it cannot be up to the market alone to determine our political preferences, and that transparency means that it is up to all of us, together, to harness innovation to reverse this trend in the digital age, and to scrutinize decision-makers and companies.
The future of transparency will not only deal with the relationship between communities and their elected representatives and institutions, but it also needs to ensure that the relationship between governments and the private sectors is open and transparent.

The relationship of trust among national governments and the citizens needs to be reciprocated in order to carry out the ambitious goals of the 2030 Agenda, and this can only be carried out through holding governments accountable. The manifesto called on local and regional governments around the world, gathered within our municipal movement, to **foster elements of transparency** to open not just our institutions, but our ways of co-creating policies, to the world; to create **enabling conditions for our local and regional governments to implement transparency** in their territories; and for mainstreaming sustainable policies that encourage a culture of disclosure among local and regional governments and their partners.

6.2
The Future of Migration

The session highlighted rural-urban migration as the biggest challenge and structural factors driving migration such as conflict, climate change and the lack of economic opportunities. The limited experience of local authorities in managing migration, and the fact that they are not involved in decision-making on migration, was noted, as well as strategies for combating xenophobia and the need to view migration as an opportunity and not just a problem.

The manifesto highlighted that, as first responders to the effects of population flows, be it internal or external, and as the level of government that welcomes newcomers as neighbors, local and regional governments cannot, and are not, mere implementing partners. They are ready to contribute with their experiences and values to strengthening pluralistic and effective partnerships to broaden forms of political and social participation for all, regardless of their origin and condition.

6.3
The Future
of Resilience

The session addressed experiences and approaches to city regeneration. This session also addressed strengthening local leadership in developing contingency and action plans. The need for a regional perspective to enhance the resilience of small and intermediary cities, and links to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction were also highlighted.

Local leaders have a significant role to play in driving the added value that cities can bring to the planet's resilience and the conservation of natural and cultural heritage.

The manifesto called for decoupling the ideas of growth and development, and warned against the "unsustainable paradigm of growth", calling for sustainable development that improves living conditions. The manifesto acknowledged the work done on Disaster Risk Reductions, and called on the municipal movement to ensure that solidarity, equity and responsibility are taken into consideration when defining policies at the local, national and international level for the benefit of humankind and resilience, and upon the Mayors and Presidents of Regions to work together towards amplifying this voice

6.4
The Future
of Culture

The session explored Culture as an expression of social justice and identity in the context of colonialism. Efforts aimed at broadening artistic and cultural experiences in various cities were highlighted. There was emphasis on the role that libraries play, often as the only free-to-access indoor spaces for social interaction.

We are convinced that cultural development and the full exercise of cultural rights by peoples, communities, and individuals are fundamental acts of peace. While they may be fragile and subtle, they are also the most critical elements for human progress

Acknowledging that culture has a vital role in our lives, the Manifesto calls for global leaders to be bold, to embrace a real global conversation on culture and sustainable development. The Manifesto also stated that no progress [in the achievement of the goals] can be achieved unless all places around the world are recognized with their dignity and their capacity to interact with others on an equal basis, in a fair cultural globalization. The manifesto further stated that "cultural development and the full exercise of cultural rights by peoples, communities, and individuals are fundamental acts of peace. While these may be fragile and subtle, they are also the most critical elements for human progress"

6.5
The Future
of Housing

The session debated a human rights-based approach to housing, as reflected in the 2018 Cities for Adequate Housing Declaration. The need to guarantee adequate housing to all citizens was stressed, as well as the absence of up-to-date lists of informal settlements and their lack

We, local and regional governments around the world recognize the right to adequate housing and its seven criteria as the main framework to advance local rights based housing strategies, as required by our commitment to The Shift and the UCLG Declaration "Cities for Adequate Housing"

of recognition in legal frameworks. Various approaches to urban housing were highlighted in Subang Jaya, Malaysia; Ekaterinburg, Russian Federation; Nanterre, France; and Taipei City, Taiwan.

The key messages of the session included the need strengthening strategies for effective peer-to-peer learning and political advocacy; a multi-layered approach to unplanned settlements; and defending the fundamental right to housing. The Manifesto on Housing exposed the

"The challenges experienced by residents and social movements on #Right2Housing in the global south are different. The solution to achieve the transformation we want is to put trust in the community: #CitiesforHousing must embrace informality."

Sheela Patel, UCLG UBUNTU Adviser

realities of the housing market and speculation, arguing that "While the most marginalized are clearly and deeply affected by the housing crisis, it is increasingly reaching the middle- and upper-income households", and called for:

a A global response to promote the right to adequate housing, turning it into one of the main priorities of local and global agendas

b Acknowledgment of the "Cities for Adequate Housing Declaration" as a framework for the development of strategic priorities on housing

c Recognize the role of LRGs in applying an integrated approach to housing

d National governments to develop rights-based housing strategies with the full involvement and collaboration of local governments.

6.6
Ecology for the Future

The session discussed the climate emergency declarations as a pathway for city policy responses; a shift to human-designed systems based on principles of ecology, and embracing circular, long-term, and systems-based ideas; and the role of local communities in tree planting. The role of cities in climate action was highlighted, noting this is where both economic growth and risk are concentrated and where a territorial approach can be pursued.

"Cities are disempowered & and don't have the time to find the resources to address Climate Change. We need to change this together"

Aromar Revi, UCLG Ubuntu Adviser, Director, Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS)

The Manifesto embodied the spirit of interconnected life systems, and recalled that "The world we live in today has no boundaries" All facets of life are interconnected and interrelate to each other as do organisms within an ecosystem. Within this context, the manifesto recalled that "the ecological transition is the product of the relationships that we as a society have with each other and with our natural world", stating that the ecological transition needs to be built on the principles of solidarity to be fully implemented.

We call upon all Climate driven initiatives by International Institutions to integrate solidarity as a transversal paradigm that can ensure the link between all levels of governance and citizens

The manifesto ended with calls to different stakeholders:

e To the cities of the word: to make their policies known; concerning Climate and the Ecological transition;

f We call upon the citizens of the world to rethink their daily patterns of living and life systems to center them around a logic of balance between consumption and production, as one of the paradigms to the Ecological transition to be fair, honest and equal;

g On national governments to empower these paradigms and ensure that complementarity between National and local policies is structuring the implementation of the 2030 agenda; especially the SDGs linked to Ecology;

f On climate driven initiatives by International Institutions: to be integrated in solidarity as a transversal paradigm that can ensure the link between all levels of governance and citizens as well.

6.7
The Future of Biodiversity

The session highlighted the importance of vertical integration of strategies and action plans for the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework. Efforts to create spaces for biodiversity and other sustainability initiatives were discussed, and the question of how to raise the profile of biodiversity in urban agendas was raised.

"We need to see 4 major transitions in 4 global systems: The identification of these systems is the challenge of a more equitable climate future"

Debra Roberts, UCLG UBUNTU Adviser, Chair of IPCC Working Group II

The Manifesto set the grounds for what would need to happen during the year 2020, which presents a unique opportunity and urgent necessity for nations to adopt a 'New Deal for Nature' under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) that will replace the current Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and most of its' associated "Aichi targets", which come to an end in 2020. The new global agreement is set to be adopted during the 15th Conference of Parties (COP), in Kunming, China in late October 2020, which is increasingly considered as the "Paris moment for Nature", the CBD COP 15 is increasingly heralded as the "Paris Moment for Nature".

We live in the urban century and find ourselves at a crossroads as we face a climate emergency coupled with the destruction of the natural world. All levels of local and regional governments hold the key to changing this current trajectory and to achieving the global sustainability agendas

6.8
The Future of Equality — Beijing+25

This session consisted of two panel discussions. The first panel explored persisting inequalities, 25 years after the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing and the backlash against gender equality. Panelists reflected on the status of gender equality in South Africa, The Gambia, Russian Federation, and Malaysia. Issues raised during the second panel discussion included: a call to support the CEMR Standing Committee for Equality statement from UCLG to be presented to the 64th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW64), on Beijing+25 and Agenda 2030; obstacles that also hinder the development of women and efforts centered on mobilizing civil society; and Beijing+25 as an opportunity to renew and review the Beijing Declaration and relaunch its action plan.

Gender equality is a human right with implications for the whole-of-society. As such, it is critical to guarantee that cities, metropolitan spaces, urban and rural areas are accessible and equally enjoyable for women and girls as they are for men and boys

The Manifesto on equality alerted that the pursuit of gender equality is not on track, and that gender equality is a pressing issue of our times, with implications for the entire society. Gender equality is cross-cutting, with implications for economic development, migrations, climate change and many more of the most important issues that our organization is addressing.

The manifesto called on local and regional governments to:

i Lead the way in implementing gender equality

j Enhancing local democracy so as to carry out SDG5

k Monitor the condition of women, addressing the lack of data of women representation in local political life across the world

l Be at the frontline in the elimination of all forms of discrimination, harassment and violence against

m Build capacities of women and support their participation through various programmes

n Sustaining cooperation at all levels through peer-learning, to advance gender equality.

6.9
The Future of Local Finances

Discussions focused on the gap between revenue remitted by municipalities to the central government and the amount allocated to local government. A compendium of solutions to cover funding gaps was highlighted, including land value capture. The need to balance stable returns with acceptable risk was raised, as a means to stimulate investment. Other issues included generating data to facilitate local development, and mechanisms to strengthen trust between central and local governments.

The **Manifesto** highlighted that, all over the world, local and regional governments are responsible and held accountable for the delivery of public services. While international expectations from the local level are high, less than 25% of total public spending is currently carried out by local and regional governments on average worldwide. The manifesto argued that the financing of the SDGs is not out of reach, but the longer we wait, the higher the cost. "Localizing finance and investment must be a common ambition and concentrate the efforts of all actors at all levels within renewed frameworks of dialogue, consultation and cooperation. The diversity of domestic contexts must be fully considered and particular attention should be paid to local social and economic actors who are the first drivers of long-term financing strategies.

Localizing finance and investment must be a common ambition and concentrate the efforts of all actors at all levels within renewed frameworks of dialogue, consultation and cooperation. The diversity of domestic contexts must be fully taken into account

6.10
The Future of Mobility

The session focused on discussions around the "right to move", and towards implementing sustainable mobility options in cities. The need to embark on partnerships among local government networks and other institutions that defend sustainable mobility were also explored during the session. Participants in the session further addressed how mobility was explored in the various global development agendas, and in particular how it was shown in the New Urban Agenda.

The **Manifesto** underscores the Right to Move, acknowledging the advances that have been made in the past decade on sustainable development. Further, it called upon all spheres of government to recognize the "right to move", focusing on the needs of communities, and called upon local and regional governments to facilitate the implementation of sustainable urban mobility plans. Finally, the Manifesto called for the recognition of the legitimacy of subnational government in mobility policies, calling particularly for adequate financing and financial mechanisms to ensure adequate allocation of resources to mobility.

"We, local governments, strongly believe that all people must have the "right to move" in the frame of territorial sustainable mobility, understood through the lens of sustainable development as access to transport and by the New Urban Agenda as the right to access to public goods and quality services including mobility and transportation"

7

The Local4Action Track

The Local4Action track was led by the participants of the Congress. Throughout its more than 50 sessions -that included labs, panels, and global conversations- it gave way for all of the spheres of the network, and our partners, to share, listen, and review in the framework of one of the following policy areas: "right to the city and inclusive territories"; "opportunities for all, culture & city diplomacy"; "territorial multi-level governance and sustainable financing"; "safer, resilient and sustainable cities, capable of facing crises".

Monday's sessions covered many relevant themes on the challenges of local governance and included interventions on an integrated planning community of practice; and the importance of integrated planning; the importance of territorializing the SDG agenda; evidence and rights-based approaches; that cities are at the forefront of innovation and are central to the success of global agendas; and the duty of youth to progressively fight to maintain local democracies.

"We need radical experimentation. What is beautiful about the SDGs is that there is no guideline. This represents the possibility for revolutions"

Edgar Pieterse, UCLG UBUNTU Adviser,
Director of African Center of Cities.

Other sessions included the African Forum for Urban Safety (AFUS) Africa Women Assembly; 2019 AFUS Learning Exchange; Shaping Resilient Cities; Delivery of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities, Theory and Practice Using Multi-Criteria and Geospatial Tools; Localizing the Transformative Agenda: Scaling up and out Social and Solidarity Economy and Finance; VLRs - Building Blocks for a Community of Practice; Raising Awareness on Youth and others.

In **Tuesday's sessions** participants discussed experiences and good practices regarding public - and multimodal - transport options; rebalancing the share of public and private travel options through different policy interventions; constitutional and legislative reforms to promote local democracy; differentiated approaches to account for people's varying abilities and diverse backgrounds; the importance of rural-urban linkages, and the need to recognize and promote social and solidarity approaches.

There were also sessions on Culture Driven Public Policies; Safe Public Spaces; Forum of Regions; Training on Sustainable Mobility; Is Urban Policy Working for You?; Unlocking Pathways Towards Resilient and Climate-Smart Cities; Human rights and Right to the city: what emerging priorities for local governments?; Partnerships for Urban Equality'; Intermediary Cities; Towards a Global Partnership for Intermediary Cities; and others.

Wednesday's sessions featured interventions on the tension between the deep inequalities experienced by women and the right to the city; the mismatch between devolution of responsibility to local governments and sufficient resources to implement the urban agenda; efforts to engage homeless people to map public spaces; growing inequalities between metropolitan areas and smaller rural towns; how partnerships could help build pathways for urban equality; and the implementation of global agendas.

Sessions that day also included Advancing Nature-Based Solutions for Resilient and Socially Inclusive Cities: Public Space Potentialities; SDGs and Decentralized Cooperation: Working on Agenda2030 Locally & Globally; The World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment: Making Fiscal Decentralization Work; Towards a Universally Accessible 2030 - Local Action and Partnerships; Launch of the European Commission City Partnerships; Women's Economic Autonomy and Empowerment Through Economic and Social Development. Thursday had sessions that covered pertinent issues such as how cities have launched Local2030 hubs; decent and quality work and employment within the framework of sustainable local development; how to harness the potential of local governments in promoting and defending digital rights.

Additional sessions that day included Children Uprooted: What Can Local Governments Do?; The Global State of Metropolis; Capacity Development for Inclusive Local Service Delivery; Digital Rights and Global Agendas: A Roadmap for the Cities Coalition for Digital Rights; Transforming Cities; Local 2030 Hubs – A Global Network to Localize Agenda 2030; Listening to Citizens, Local Democracy at the Center of Governance.

Friday's session dealt with the challenges of future proofing local government associations with regards to organizational effectiveness, membership, party politics, and financial stability; integral approaches to public space that emphasize multistakeholder collaboration; local government initiatives for conflict prevention, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction and many others.

There were also sessions on Local Government Associations 2.0 – ready for the future; Governance for Public Spaces: Challenges and Difficulties from an Inclusive, Diverse, and Equality Point of View; Peace Initiatives: Inspiration from the UCLG Peace Prize finalists; Ethical Cities Project; Regional Strategies Toward the SDGs.

The core of the Congress meetings – The Local4Action Hub

The Local4Action Hub was at the core of the World Summit experience. Envisioned as an ecosystem that allowed partners to liaise, network, and work in partnership, it functioned as a dynamic and relational space where the different tracks of the UCLG World Summit interconnected and interacted. It served as the space to pick up the discussions that have already begun prior to the Summit, and develop a policy-making mechanism among all actors to define the future of our movement.

The Hub was inaugurated on Monday. Within the discussions, participants addressed the role of cities dealing with the consequences of failed international systems, including climate change and financial collapse; that the challenge for women leaders is to be heard; that the role of corruption at the national level must be challenged; and the need for directing international funding streams to benefit local communities. There were also sessions on creating an enabling environment for human rights at the local level in Africa; and launching a call to action after the Marrakech Mayoral Declaration.

Tuesday included a session on "The role of Agenda 2030 in Creating Citizenship: How can local governments use the SDGs to connect with their citizens?" The session prompted a frank and informal exchange on the importance of active citizen engagement, mechanisms for inclusive citizenship, and examples of local SDG co-creation.

Events in the Local4Action Hub convened over the five days and focused on learning and discussing emerging good practices. The informal and interactive space provided a platform for brainstorming on many issues that have not yet found their way onto the official agenda, to expand the scope of our activities and to truly build the spirit of the Summit with exchanges and brief events

Thursday featured a world café on "Creative Mobilities" with presentations on urban regeneration, a culture-based manual for local development, and a culture-based approach that had helped communities reinvent their transport approaches. Another session, on cities facing crises, opened with a short UCLG film on how local authorities respond to crisis. Discussants highlighted the impact on social cohesion, basic services and infrastructure resulting from an influx of Syrian refugees into a Lebanese city, with 100,000 people displaced. A representative of a municipality described the creation of a framework of co-existence to manage the provision of services and relations between refugees and citizens.

On **Friday**, the Hub had a session on "Digital Networking for Sustainable Urban Development," which focused on learning about policy practices in the digital era. Metropolis presented the USE Platform with more than 300 case studies on uses of technology, and an online community available to link cities with similar challenges.

Other Hub events addressed: city diplomacy; water resilience; transformational leadership; changing mindsets in the public sector; **the New Urban Agenda**; city-to-city partnership; access to capital markets; local disaster risk reduction and localizing the Sendai Framework; housing; and culture and governance.

The UCLG Learning Forum

Our Network is also a Learning Network, that values decentralized cooperation and learning to empower local and regional leaders in the achievement of the Universal Development Agendas, and the Learning Forum, which will provide a full day of interaction, will be the key to inspire our Learning Strategy for the years to come, to boost the reach of our policies and develop innovative learning methodologies.

The Fourth UCLG Learning Forum, a one-day session focused on interactive learning opportunities, providing an assessment of the state of learning within the network and recommendations to extend the reach of UCLG policies and was a way of consolidating UCLG's learning strategy.

The day included sharing experiences on: localizing the Sendai Framework; evolution of the modules and methodologies; a discussion on key components to nurture the learning agenda and a dialogue between existing learning mechanisms on how to ensure transferability, and the session provided concrete recommendations to boost the reach of UCLG policies through learning, and specific recommendations on innovative learning methodologies and mechanisms.

The beating heart of our organization — Our decision-making organisms under the Statutory Track

Under this Track the UCLG Section Caucuses for CEMR, Eurasia, MEWA, Africa, Latin America and the Americas, well as Metropolis (Regional Secretaries Meeting) met. There was a meeting of the Financial Management Committee and of the Committee on Statutory Affairs. The UCLG Statutory Bodies, including our Executive Bureau, the General Assembly and the World Council, met on occasion of the UCLG World Summit.

The decisions taken in this track allowed us to renew our leadership and our governing bodies, including our Treasurers and Presidency, for the 2019-2022 period.

The last executive Bureau for the current mandate convened in Durban, receiving updates on key work areas and members' proposals. A new Executive Bureau was also appointed for the 2019-2022 mandate in Durban during the World Council.

The UCLG General Assembly convened late on Thursday evening. The General Assembly allowed for the In his introductory remarks, UCLG President, Mpho Parks Tau, recounted activities over the last three years; including on housing, migration, localizing the SDGs, and engagement with stakeholders and municipalities around the world. He emphasized the work done to bring a human face to this global platform and the acceleration required to respond to a rapidly changing world. He stressed the importance of UCLG's function as a learning network, which is being enhanced through training on localizing global agendas such as the Sendai Framework, the New Urban Agenda, and Agenda 2030.

On Thursday, the World Council met back-to-back with the General Assembly, holding the first round of the elections to the Presidency. A consensus process was adopted, culminating in the appointment of the new UCLG President on Friday. On Friday, outgoing UCLG President, Mpho Parks Tau, reconvened the World Council to elect the Presidency.

8.1
Election of President

The World Council proceeded to the election of the Presidency. Parks Tau reported that consensus had been reached following extensive discussions and consultations with two candidates for the presidency. **Mohamed Boudra**, Mayor of Al Hoceima, Morocco, and President of the Moroccan Association of Communal Council of Presidents (AMPCC) was elected President and announced that, for the first time in the history of the Organization, there had been an agreement on a "collegiate presidency," in which the second candidate, Ilsur Metshin, Mayor of Kazan, was confirmed as Chair of the UN Advisory Committee for Local Authorities, and joined Boudra on the stage. Metshin thanked residents of his municipality and all who had supported his candidacy. The World Council also elected the Vice-presidents for the upcoming

> "The states have heard us; the organizations have heard us. We are ambitious, and we can better put forward the wants and needs of our citizens"

Mohamed Boudra, President of UCLG.

The Council also confirmed the election, by acclamation, of the following Presidency positions:

Co-Presidents: **Johnny Araya Monge**, Mayor of San José;

Uğur İbrahim Altay, Mayor of Konya; **Jan van Zanen**, Mayor of Utrecht; **Li Mingyuan**, Mayor of Xi'an; **Thembisile Nkadimeng**, Mayor of Polokwane.

Treasurers: **Madelaine Alfelor-Gazman**, Mayor of Iriga; **Berry Vrbanovic**, Mayor of Kitchener.

Special Envoys: **Ada Colau**, Mayor of Barcelona, Special Envoy to the UN; **Fernando Medina**, Mayor of Lismon.

8.2
Adoption of the 2020 Workplan

In line with UCLG's strategic priorities, and in the context of our partnership with the European Union and enhanced by our partnership with SIDA, the UCLG Workplan for 2020 will be built around consolidating international spaces for dialogue; developing the policymaking of the world organization; documenting the local perspective in the achievement of the international agendas; facilitating learning and decentralized cooperation; and develop cross-cutting activities that strengthen the links among our organization.

The UCLG Congress has been a critical milestone of our movement and thus pecial efforts will be made to ensure that the knowledge and the outcomes of the Summit feed into our debates, our consultation and policy mechanisms -the Policy Councils- as well as the exchange from our members in Committees, Fora and Communities of Practice.

Our **work plan for 2020** will ensure that enhanced global dialogues with the private sector and civil society will be given priority as a follow-up of our UCLG Congress, to ensure we rally actors for the achievement of the Global Goals, and UCLG in particular. 2020 will also be the year of Policy Development for the World Organization, which will begin providing Policy Briefings on the most pressing issues for our membership, and for the future of urbanization.

2020 will also see us push forward with our All-UCLG Gender Strategy, and continue with our renewed policies on migration and housing through the consolidation of their communities of Practice. This year is also the year of our renewal, with the second generation of Waves of Action on Public Space, Localizing the Sendai Framework, and Reinventing Local Democracy.

8.3
Adoption of the Universal Declaration of Humankind Rights

The Declaration, that had been debated for the first time in 2018 in our organization, was adopted within the world council by acclamation. The Declaration is based on the perspective of the entire humankind having the same rights and duties to itself as to the ecosystems in which it lives.

8.4
Report of the Financial Management Committee

UCLG Treasurer, **Berry Vrbanovic, reported that at its meeting held on 12 November 2019**, the financial committee approved the financial accounts and agreed to invite the World Council to take note of the auditor's report and approve the decisions presented.

8.5
Where to now? Our statutory meetings 2020-2022

Heo Tae-jeong, Mayor of Daejeon, Republic of Korea, thanked members for selecting the city as host of the 2022 UCLG World Congress, pointing to the city's profile as a leading hub of science and technology. He expressed hope that the Congress would also symbolize a new wind of reconciliation on the Korean peninsula.

Johnny Araya Monge, Mayor, San José, Costa Rica, invited the UCLG Bureau to meet in Costa Rica, in 2021, on the 200th anniversary of independence.

9

# Where are we going? The World Assembly Outcomes
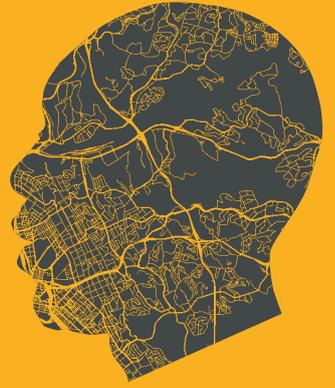
The main outcomes of the Summit

For the first time, the political outcomes of the UCLG World Summit were a compendium of policy Recommendations derived from the co-creation process that resulted in our Special Sessions, and our Town Hall and Assembly Tracks, that fed both the new leadership appointed during the Summit and the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments, convened by the Global Taskforce. Beyond these recommendations, the chief Summit Outcomes were Durban Political Declaration, titled "Envisioning the Future of Our Renewed International Municipal Movement," and, for the first time at a UCLG Congress, a compendium of integrated policy recommendations resulting from a six-month consultation process with diverse stakeholders.

Other outputs during the week included the launch of three initiatives to support localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), namely:

- The International Municipal Investment Fund (IMIF) - an initiative of UCLG and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) in collaboration with the Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV). The Fund will be managed by Meridiam, an independent investment company with extensive experience in financing public infrastructure projects and currently managing €7 billion in assets. The fund aims to accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and the Paris Agreement on climate change, by increasing available investment for local SDG-oriented projects in developing countries.

- The "Plant Trees Not Bombs" campaign, which took place in the presence of high-level officials from Durban municipality, with the aim of demonstrating that local policies for peace are on the top of the agenda of the constituency and of the World Summit.

- The Fifth Report of the Global Observatory on Decentralization and Local Democracy (GOLD V), which assessed national strategies for the implementation of the global agendas in each world region.

- The Summit saw a significant boost to the UCLG's commitment to mainstream the gender equality agenda, with an announcement that 15% of the UCLG budget is to be dedicated to these activities, with support from a newly announced partnership with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).
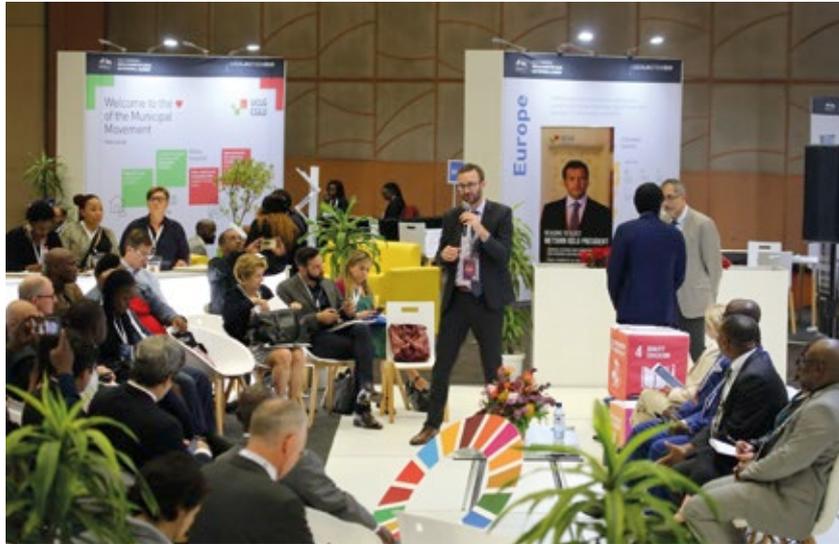
Many speakers noted that the Summit represented a significant moment in the reconstitution and re-imagining of the multilateral system as a whole, to advance a new paradigm of equality, subsidiarity, and ecology. . Others highlighted the timeliness of the Summit in giving voice to rising young leaders, who are speaking with authority and driving responses to the climate change emergency. The Summit also offered sober reflections on the crisis of legitimacy in parts of the international system, perhaps best described in one observation as a world aflame with protest and ecological challenge.

Deliberations at the Summit will help chart the course of the UCLG over the next three years, and shape its contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the first review of the New Urban Agenda in 2020. On the immediate horizon for the "decade of SDG implementation" is the UCLG's contribution to the 64th session of the Commission on the Status of Women/ Beijing+25 and an invitation from the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres' office to help shape the global multilateral agenda from the perspective of LRGs, during a hearing in 2020 to mark the 75th anniversary of the founding of the UN.

The World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments

Facilitated by UCLG, the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments brings together all of the major international networks of local governments to undertake joint advocacy work relating to global policy processes.

The Global Taskforce is also the convener of the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments (WALRG) the joint voice of local and regional leaders around the world, acknowledged in the New Urban Agenda as the mechanism for its follow-up and review, and held a session in the framework of our World Summit.

The sitting of the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments formally offered an opportunity for the constituencies of the civil society to provide their recommendations to the Global Taskforce, certifying its opportunity to consolidate the voices and actions of and constituency, and to enable the, to consolidate the voice and actions of our constituency, and to enable the urgent transformation that societies and communities around the world are calling for through the principle of solidarity- The gathering was based around three panels, each moderated by a representative from the sister networks that are part of the Global Taskforce, and received the recommendations of the Town Hall and Assembly Tracks, as well as the Manifestos.

The outcome document of the WALRG notes that the constituency of local and regional government considers the next decade as the most critical for collective implementation of global goals and development agendas, with the Assembly providing a unique opportunity to renew shared commitments and vision to "leave no one and no place behind," accelerate action, and strengthen partnerships.

Sister organizations, networks and associations of local and regional governments called on the World Assembly to continue carrying out full decentralization to empower local and regional governments, securing dialogues among spheres of government, and enhancing capacities and access to finance for local and regional governments to ensure the renewal of the multilateral system, and acknowledges the work from the sister networks that founded the GTF, that have provided both the GTF and the WALRG with tools to secure its place in the global conversations regarding biodiversity, migration, culture, gender, and safe and inclusive cities, among other areas.

The document notes the WALRG's unique opportunity to consolidate the voices and actions of its constituency and put forward principles of solidarity to enable the urgent transformation that societies and communities are calling for. On strengthening governance and institutional processes of the GTF and the WALRG, the document commits to explore the best mechanisms of interaction and coordination with the UN Secretary-General's Office to ensure that the LRG constituency is best positioned and heard.

The outcome document notes that civil society has called on WALRG to:

- Put the people and the planet at the forefront of its actions through multistakeholder partnerships and joint policy making; Commit to leaving "no one and no place behind" by promoting accessible and inclusive policies; Promote and mainstream gender equality; and Recognize everyone's right to the city and address informality as an opportunity for innovation and solutions.

- The document further notes that members of the LRG constituency have called on the WALRG to support policies for localization by taking steps to address:

- Decentralization to empower local and regional governments;

- Securing dialogues among spheres of government, and enhancing capacities and access to finance for local and regional governments, to ensure renewal of the multilateral system;

- The territorial approach to development as essential to the development of life systems;

- Rural and urban linkages as a contribution to resilient cities;

- A rights-based approach to cities to provide solutions to the triple informalities of work, housing and transport;

- Participatory processes; and

- Developing culture as a strand of global solidarity, a vector of peace and an operational component of localization.

Finally, the outcome document identifies thematic priorities for the GTF and the World Assembly, including:

- Urban development based on a low emissions pathway with the aim of achieving climate neutrality in LRG infrastructure before 2050;

- Resilience as a core part of LRG planning strategies;

- Prioritization of nature-based solutions and mainstreaming of nature in cities and regions, recognizing the value of nature as fundamental to collective economic and social wellbeing, in the context of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and Earth's planetary boundaries;

- Securing safe access to food, water, energy, sanitation, and education for all; and

- The creation and sustainability of people-centered, safe and culturally vibrant communities.

The Summit's policy outcomes further reflect an evolving role for the UCLG and for the Global Taskforce (GTF) in serving as an authoritative interlocutor for local and regional government constituencies with the UN and other parts of the multilateral system, as they seek to articulate new visions of planetary governance and transformation that put empowered people and the planet

#CitiesAre Listening

UCLG AFRICA
United Cities and Local Governments of Africa
Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis d'Afrique
CGLU AFRIQUE

UCLG ASPAC

UCLG EURASIA

CCRE CEMR

FLACMA

MERCO**CIUDADES**

UCLG MEWA

UCLG-NORAM

metropolis

UCLG REGIONS