



4th edition
World Forum of Cities
and Territories
of Peace

BOGOTÁ
- 2023 -

 **UCLG**
United Cities
and Local Governments

 **ALCALDÍA MAJOR**
DE BOGOTÁ, D.C.

 **BOGOTÁ**

DECLARATION OF THE CITY OF BOGOTA

Fourth World Forum of Cities and Territories of Peace

A new social contract based on care to build cities, territories and societies of peace.

Introduction

Urban spaces concentrate and reproduce various forms of violence that often respond to global dynamics. Violence in cities is multidimensional in nature and therefore requires equally multidimensional responses, in line with the most recent international agendas, such as the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda, whose Sustainable Development Goals include the need to "make cities and settlements inclusive, resilient and sustainable" (SDG 11) and "promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies" (SDG 16).

The United Nations Secretary General's Our Common Agenda identifies the need for a "new agenda for peace" as one of the pillars for achieving a more solid, interconnected and inclusive multilateral system. Beyond the calls for the promotion of peace in the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda, this Common Agenda also emphasizes the promotion of peace and peacebuilding from the territories.

The transformative diplomacy of local governments, sister city links and international municipal cooperation and solidarity are a vital contribution to multilateralism that has proven vital to achieving global agendas for a just and peaceful world.

Building bridges for dialogue between cities and territories is a means to address current and future conflicts related to natural resources and the climate crisis. To protect and manage peace as a global public good, local and regional governments gathered in Bogota understand the need to approach it as an essential common good, which must be cared for among all communities, addressing the causes that generate the inequalities that lead to conflicts, and to elaborate, among all actors, a new social contract that emerges from the territories.

Our movement is convinced that there is no peace if women live in fear of gender-based violence. There are no safe cities and territories if security measures do not include the interests of women and girls and guarantee the right to live a life free of violence.



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Where we come from

Many cities are leaders in promoting living together and combating violence. Since the World Forum on Urban Violence and Education for Coexistence and Peace, held in Madrid in 2017, local governments have been highlighting the profound scourge of urban violence.

The World Forum of Cities and Territories of Peace in Bogota is a continuation of the World Forum on Urban Violence and Education for Coexistence and Peace, held in Madrid in 2017 and 2018, which addressed the necessary intersection between the SDGs to achieve peace, and the importance of jointly rethinking the importance of cities and territories to transform situations of conflict.

The Third World Forum on Cities and Territories of Peace, in Mexico City, took into account the positive conception of peace, understood not only as the absence of armed conflict, but also as the presence of social justice, sustainable development, democratic exercise of citizenship, fulfillment of human rights within and between states and, therefore, opposed to any type of violence. In this sense, ESCR (Economic, Social, Cultural and Environmental Rights) were the conceptual pillars of the Forum, worked from an approach to the Right to the City.

The Bogota Forum focuses on building sustainable peace based on care, from territories that recognize and value differences and make it possible for population groups and social sectors in vulnerable conditions to participate in the welfare and local supply of services. Sustainable peace based on care allows the building of trust between citizens and institutions, protects women and girls, and recognizes, distributes and reduces women's unpaid care work, expanding their opportunities for well-being, education and income generation. Caring for people, particularly young people and women, in turn favors the care of democracy, by expanding its legitimacy and stability, and of the planet, by having the institutional strength to adopt instruments for climate action and environmental sustainability.

Our call

Local and regional governments gathered in Bogota intend to build a sustainable peace based on care and to combat violence in all its expressions: from the most obvious expressions of violence, to structural violence in the form of inequalities, and cultural violence that divides and disarticulates peace in our cities and territories.

This implies working on human development that has peace, culture, creativity and quality of life at its core. Only in this way will we be able to guarantee rights for all people and reduce the causes of violence in cities.



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Territorial Peace

- Collaborate to develop effective strategies to prevent and resolve conflicts at the local and regional level, preventing them from escalating into violence. Through reconciliation, intercommunity dialogue, and the promotion of peaceful coexistence, we will be able to build territories of peace.
- Involving citizens and the most disadvantaged groups in the promotion of peace is key to transforming territories of peace. Civil society, young people and marginalized groups need spaces to be able to express themselves and take part in the decisions that affect them, and they must be part of local consolidation strategies at the local level.

A social contract for the common care

- Protecting the commons: housing, health, food systems, and new essential goods is vital to developing peaceful, more just and equitable societies, and overcoming the causes of urban violence.
- Through transformative city diplomacy we can work for global governance that protects the commons and ensures equality.
- A culture of peace built on care implies the recognition of local and regional actors, and of governments at the local level, as guarantors of this protection. A society built on the respect and promotion of people's rights, regardless of their ethnic origin, religion, gender or sexual orientation, is a more just, egalitarian and dignified society.

Environmental peace

- Rising temperatures resulting from climate change will transform how we relate to each other in the medium and long term, forcing people to leave their homes due to loss of livelihoods, environmental degradation and lack of basic resources. An environmental peace is a peace that protects the most vulnerable people from the shocks of climate change, that builds resilience from the local level and includes the knowledge of communities for inclusive and efficient decision-making.
- Conflicts over natural resources resulting from the climate crisis will increase competition over common goods such as water, land, minerals and forests, and may even lead to violence. Cities and territories of peace are convinced of the need to protect the commons, and that only if they are understood as a good for all people, fleeing from extractivist dynamics, will we be able to get these conflicts resolved peacefully.



Women, peace and security

- Our goal is to make visible the systemic violence that primarily affects women, with the aim of challenging the social and economic structures and norms that perpetuate gender inequality and violence against women, in order to achieve more equitable and
- just societies. We must work to ensure that women have equal access to goods, services and infrastructure that incorporate their demands.
- Generate and reinforce all necessary measures within the reach of local governments aimed at preventing, punishing and eradicating violence against women and girls in private and public spaces. Work on concrete public policy, education and communication actions that favor the prevention, punishment and eradication of violence and the construction of safe cities.
- Women's political participation, the eradication of gender inequalities and the generation of opportunities for women and girls are vital to drive real and social change, promoting more inclusive regulatory frameworks. We are also committed to a feminist way of understanding cities and politics, to put care at the center and to eliminate gender-based violence at its roots.

Transition to citizenship of peace

- We are committed to continue working to ensure that people live in safe, peaceful and violence-free environments, including in domestic settings. We believe that for this to happen, a governance framework that has care at its core, and the development of public services, is necessary.
- It is essential to promote and protect peace-building initiatives that are born from the cities, channeling the conflicts that may arise in our streets and territories, to prevent them from turning into violence and thus enhance the belonging, creativity and cultural development that can save us from the destruction and meaninglessness that violence entails.

Local and regional governments, drawing on the strength of their networks, and in particular the World Organization of United Cities and Local Governments, commit to continue to nurture the Forum process to continue building peace at all levels from our cities and territories. We also commit to continue to cohere a peace strategy that disseminates good practices and peace initiatives through tools such as the UCLG Peace Prize, which recognizes the importance of local and regional governments in promoting peace in conflict situations.



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In this regard, cities and territories of peace will seek to strengthen dialogue with the international system, with the different spheres of government, and with other peacebuilding actors to better integrate their efforts and actions with the 2030 Agenda, the United Nations

Secretary General's Common Agenda and international initiatives to build coexistence and peace, with an eye on the Summit of the Future and the post-2030 agenda.

We reiterate that peace is not only the absence of war, but also the absence of all kinds of violence. The cities and regions gathered in Bogotá commit ourselves to combat violence in all its expressions: from the most evident, the direct ones, to the structural violence in the form of inequalities, and the cultural violence that divides and disarticulates peace in our cities and territories.

As the level of government closest to the people, the role of regional and local governments is essential to address the systemic roots of patriarchal violence against women and combat structural inequalities through human rights-based approaches and policies that value trust, dialogue and accountability.



Organize



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Our network



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