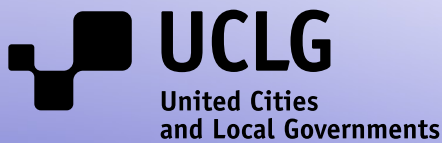


PACT FOR THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY


The Daejeon Political Declaration



PEOPLE

PLANET

GOVERNMENT



PACT FOR THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY

Mandated and inspired by local and regional government leaders from around the world. The Pact has benefited from inputs from civil society partners active in our Town Hall process and accompanied by an international advisory committee that, together with the World Secretariat policy team, have held the pen, namely: Billy Cobbett, Luca Bergamo, Carlos Moreno and Maria Fernanda Espinosa.

PACT FOR THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY

We, on behalf of local and regional governments and government associations from around the world, representing communities large and small, metropolitan, rural and urban, gathered at the 7th UCLG World Congress in Daejeon, South Korea, from October 10–14, 2022, under the theme of “Local and Regional Governments Breaking Through as One” and adopted the Pact for the Future of Humanity, as follows.

A CENTURY-OLD MOVEMENT

The Ghent International Exposition opened up in 1913 and with it the first ever International Congress of Cities. Gathered under the motto “The Art of Building Cities and Organizing Community Life”, the message broadcast by the event, now over a century ago, was loud and clear: urban planning was a realm for creativity and co-creation that, through properly managed commons, could serve as a guiding light for living together.

The whole event, as well as the International Union of Cities which was created as a result, was a product of the peace movement. In fact, one of the organizers of the event, Henri La Fontaine, won the Nobel Peace Prize that year. Our incipient municipal movement, aware of the growing political unrest at the national level and the circulating predictions of war, gathered in Ghent to seek worldwide transformation that, through a new type of government, would address global aspects of the challenges they were about to face. This transformative initiative came to be known as city diplomacy.

In the post-conflict process of establishing peace that followed the two World Wars, solutions drawn up by the international peace movement focused on the very same State relations that had brought our society to the brink of self-destruction. Nevertheless, the role of our constituency of local and regional governments was as relevant as it was underestimated. Technical cooperation and twinning became important expressions of our role on the international stage, as well as instruments of human culture that brought different populations together, strengthening ties regardless of political affiliations.



It was a dangerous world, and peace, the ultimate prerequisite for community life, could not be taken for granted anymore. Thus, the art of building cities and organizing community life, as defined in 1913, served to strengthen the intercity relations that would take precedence over conflicts between national governments.

The spirit of the municipal movement has been steadily growing stronger ever since, as has the call for greater recognition of cities, territories and their networks as political actors in the multilateral system. Our constituency was able to consolidate its position on the global stage through the UN Habitat Conferences in Vancouver (1976) and Istanbul (1996), where the first World Assembly of Cities and Local Authorities took place. The municipal movement celebrated its centennial in 2013 and, only three years later, witnessed the historical achievement of the New Urban Agenda. The resulting Quito Outcome Document enshrined the Right to the City and consolidated our organized constituency within the international system by acknowledging the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments as the new agenda's mechanism of follow-up and review.

In this urban era, we embrace our origins in order to deliver systemic transformation by safeguarding local democracies, building peace through mutual cooperation, and remaining loyal to the values and principles of decentralization, subsidiarity, gender equality, self-government and accountability.

In 2020, however, the world ground to a halt again, causing radical, and perhaps permanent, changes to the way that we relate to each other. The COVID-19 crisis acted as a magnifying glass that highlighted everyone and everything we were leaving behind.

While the pandemic presented us with an unprecedented situation, it also gave us a renewed sense of purpose to deliver the transformations – of our beliefs, of our actions, of our partnerships – needed to breakthrough as one. We understood that failing was not an option if we were to have any hope of overcoming current levels of inequality, addressing an environmental crisis reaching the point of no return, and challenging the widening cultural divide.

However, two years after the outbreak of the pandemic, the world no longer seems to maintain that same spirit of hope. Innovation and change are no longer the main drivers of our vision. Solidarity is not steering our action. The polarization of our world is reaching new extremes and bringing us closer to the kind of historical moment that, over a century ago, led to our founding. The stakes are as high as ever.

Today, however, we are not in exactly the same dark place. We, as a municipal movement, are better equipped and have a wider reach. There is a multilateral system committed to strengthening global governance for the sake of current and future generations. The UN Summit of the Future will serve as the keystone of this foundational moment, and the contribution

of UCLG members together with our organized constituency – articulated around the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments – will be the Pact for the Future.

We are working towards a world that bridges local actions and global trends, bringing a territorial perspective to global agendas. A feminist world that shows care and guarantees equal rights for us all. A world driven by well-informed, critical and empowered communities. A world based on solidarity.

United Cities and Local Governments, an equality-driven movement, is committed to facilitating spaces where local and regional leaders can make this kind of world a reality.

This is what we need to do for our common future. For the people, for the planet, and for the government.

THE NEED FOR THE PACT

Over the past two years, a global pandemic has simultaneously reinforced the interdependence and the vast separation that exist both within and between societies. We are experiencing a change of era, not just an era of many changes, and newly emerged vulnerabilities only serve to deepen these divides. As devastating as COVID-19 has been, it is overshadowed by two existential and interrelated crises that threaten our very survival: the rampant growth of inequality and the environmental crisis, including the climate emergency and loss of biodiversity.

We have already veered significantly off track with the bold and comprehensive Sustainable Development Goals agreed by national governments in 2015: national governments all over the world are increasingly falling behind agreed targets, with potentially catastrophic consequences. The Reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) continue to highlight both the nature and consequences of our collective failure to reduce emissions and achieve Net Zero by 2050. We have failed to stabilize our climate, regenerate natural environments, and avoid the suffering, loss and migration of millions of people, especially in the most vulnerable countries of the Global South, such as Small Island Developing States.

Early responses to the COVID-19 pandemic provided a glimpse of a more caring, empathetic attitude in societies around the world. However, it is clear that the post-pandemic world has not moved on to the promised *new normal*; on the contrary, not only has there been a return to business as usual, but we have even seen a marked deterioration of the planet and the living conditions of people around the globe.



In light of dramatic setbacks in peace and democracy, as well as entrenched racism, sexism, ageism and ableism, universal human rights have been undermined, abolished or revoked in too many parts of the world. People have been discriminated against on the basis of race, gender, religion, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, age, class and disability, while a rise in hate speech and misinformation spreads through the unregulated power and anonymity of social media. Continued gender-based inequalities and the daily, systemic discrimination against women and girls, older people and people with disabilities, continues to demean our humanity globally and entrench a collective sense of under-achievement. Meanwhile, a new 21st-century form of distress is gripping the young of the world, as they grieve for the future of our planet and suffer from eco-anxiety.

Confronted with a closing window of opportunity, we believe that now is the time for the local multilateral system to demonstrate that it has come of age and is ready to join national and international partners in bringing about truly transformative action. This is the clear and historic commitment that underlies the Pact for the Future.

The Pact seeks to be part of a global, hopeful and committed initiative that demonstrates that another way is possible and that, when collectively shared, resources, intellectual capacity, skills and willpower are available in abundance and to the extent needed. What has been in short supply, however, is the political will, bold leadership and courage that is needed to challenge existing orthodoxies.

Against this backdrop, we, representing local and regional governments around the world, are firmly committed to contributing to the sustained and profound transformation of our societies.

Our constituency seeks to deliver real, tangible and continuous action over time, with individual citizens, households and communities playing an active and leading role. While cities of all sizes have already demonstrated significant results, reinforcing the notion of systems of cities (the important relationship between cities and their surrounding regions, that of mutual dependence on the well-being of the other), there is now an urgent need to inspire truly transformational change at scale throughout the whole world. In so doing, we also seek to reinforce the pressing need to replace dynamics of division and conflict with a new imperative in support of peace.

Globally, all local, regional, and national governments must double down on their efforts to fulfill commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals, the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the New Urban Agenda, in line with human rights treaties. Progress and success will benefit not only the citizens of today, but also younger generations and generations to come.

Through this *Pact for the Future*, UCLG members and the organized constituency of local and regional governments restate their commitment to the power of collective action, empowerment, shared ownership, co-creation, international cooperation and solidarity, the very cornerstones of

harmonious and sustainable societies. Conscious of the inherited legacy of those who have built this movement over more than a century, we celebrate the **Power of We** to inspire our vision and deliver on our commitments.

The **Power of We** encapsulates both the desire and methods of the municipal movement to contribute to a better, safer, more accessible, peaceful and equal future through our collective voice and agency.

Reaffirming our shared humanity, we therefore reject greed, prejudice and division and choose to place **CARE** at the heart of our Pact for the Future – care for the human rights of all people and care for the integrity of our planet.

WE, LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS

Acknowledge that the search for never-ending economic growth requires systems of production and consumption that are both destructive and unsustainable. Despite some short-term material benefits and advances, it is now abundantly clear that these systems not only deplete our life-supporting ecosystems but also lead to social exclusion and unprecedented levels of inequality to such an extent that peace, democracy, security and our universal well-being are all under threat. Indeed, far from providing for future generations, our current development pathways are concentrating economic, social and political power in the hands of an ever diminishing and unaccountable minority of people and organizations.

Envisage a future based on caring, sharing and solidarity, where the pursuit of incessant GDP growth and unsustainable production and consumption is replaced by a universal quest for an ever-improving quality of life for all, where universal human rights are promoted, protected and realized. This can only be achieved by regenerating the planet and respecting the living world that sustains us. A well-informed, critical and empowered citizenry will be our essential partner in navigating the significant changes to daily life that are so urgently needed, challenging many assumptions in favor of reimagining our common future and realigning local and global relationships. In summary, we need a complete revision of our value systems.

Commit to genuinely seeking equity and opportunity for all and to fostering a new narrative that reflects these values. This means forging new development paradigms that protect the local and global commons, as well as measuring progress through the lives of poor, excluded and vulnerable populations, instead of the rich and privileged. It also means changing our systems – from degenerative to regenerative, and from divisive to distributive – by design.



Take stock of a whole network of cities of different densities and sizes, which are essential elements of globalization in a world that has become predominantly urban. These cities concentrate resources and attract populations, migratory flows, work, creativity, and social and cultural innovations. Previously concentrated in a few megacities, the effects of globalization are now reshaping many different kinds of cities. Urban and territorial life is at the heart of social, environmental, and cultural policy issues.

Assume our responsibilities in contributing to these challenges. As local and regional governments, we recognize and accept that we have a unique responsibility through our role in regulating and supporting the daily lives of citizens, both public and private, and through our proximity, which offers us direct and daily contact with the lives and concerns of our fellow citizens. In co-creating and implementing bold and transformative actions, it is essential that the immediate and ongoing needs of local communities are balanced with the achievement of Global Goals. We accept our global responsibilities, recognising the impact of our actions on ecosystems and communities around the world.

Consider that enormous and exciting opportunities in developing new forms of governance and decision-making are emerging, and that it is imperative to replace outdated, hierarchical and siloed working models with a holistic approach that can encompass entire systems. We will harness new technologies to share information and provide a space for innovative solutions, using them to systematically improve the quality of life for all and protect digital rights, leaving no place and no person behind. For their part, private sectors and civil society will have a key role to play in promoting a regenerative and distributive economy.

Recognize that no actor and no sphere of government can do this alone. Wherever necessary, we commit to exploring wholly new relationships and alliances with other spheres of government based on the respect of the principles of subsidiarity, shared responsibilities and collaborative implementation, as well as with international organizations, building upon our mutual strengths and competences.

Reaffirm the importance of universal education, especially for all girls, a free media, and freedom of expression, agency and critical thinking in ensuring well-informed and empowered citizens. As local and regional governments, we welcome civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders as essential partners in ensuring progress and the stability of our towns, cities and regions.

Pledge to expand and ensure universal access to local and regional services and equal opportunities for all citizens. We acknowledge that this will require transformational policies at all levels to deliver a new paradigm shift around care, whereby collective action and knowledge are made equally and universally available to all citizens and both human rights and the health of our only planet are respected.

PACT FOR THE FUTURE FOR PEOPLE

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Our Pact is universal and seeks to deliver equal opportunity, fairness and justice for everyone everywhere. We will seek to replace the quest for individual advancement to the detriment of fellow citizens with an ethos based on public service through reciprocal care and sharing. The pandemic has demonstrated the importance of rescaling contemporary life and has proven how border-centered approaches to human mobility have repeatedly proven both ineffective and unfair. Free citizens will be the main force behind the social, political and economic changes that are essential in realizing this Pact, and we will, therefore, continue to stress the importance of a well-informed and empowered citizenry. The bedrock of this approach is ensuring that all citizens are empowered to achieve their potential through universal access to education, culture, and policies informed by a new grassroots feminism. The global feminist municipal movement will be central to ensuring that women and girls are not left behind in fostering a new approach to politics. Environments that are healthy and accessible, and institutions that provide impartial service to all will restore trust and boost hope, solidarity and optimism, liberating our collective imaginations and instilling a new sense of what is possible at home and for the world. The enrichment of everyone's social capital through human development and emancipation is our guiding light in leading our current age of transition towards a just and sustainable tomorrow.

Against this backdrop, the Pact for the Future for People abides by the following commitments:

1. Guarantee equal rights and opportunities for all and respect and celebrate diversity.
2. Foster universal and equitable access to public services, including housing, health, education and participation in cultural and political life.
3. Promote informed and sustained citizen participation in public life and decision-making, thus promoting freedom of speech, conscience and artistic expression.
4. Focus on human development with culture, peace, creativity & quality of life at the core.
5. Guarantee decent work and fair pay for all, based on the respect of the principles of subsidiarity, shared responsibilities, collaborative implementation, and entrepreneurship.
6. Promote the role of voluntary associations and facilitate care through volunteer activities.
7. Ensure that women and girls are fully empowered to achieve their full potential as citizens and foster a feminist approach to politics.



8. Contribute to citizens' ability to live in safe, peaceful and violence-free environments, including in domestic settings.
9. Foster open, accessible and verifiable information and data to promote inclusion, education and communication.
10. Respect for planetary health and the well-being of future generations.

WE, LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS

Acknowledge the impact of growing inequalities within and between cities and regions, too often resulting from the commodification of most aspects of life. The needs of marginalized communities, especially women, people with disabilities, older people and the urban poor, have not been sufficiently addressed, resulting in a sharp acceleration of social exclusion and fragmentation. Specifically, we have witnessed the return of forced evictions, displacement and dispossession affecting the poor and vulnerable, a widened gender gap and increased gender-based violence.

Understand that in order to address the roots of these inequalities we need to significantly reduce income gaps while enhancing political participation and addressing barriers to accessibility and the discrimination of marginalized groups.

Recognise that universal development agendas and human rights instruments already provide the framework to ensure access to services, the rights of the people to participate in public life, care as an enabler of inclusive environments, and co-creation with our communities. We also recognize that development pathways should center human rights as we reaffirm our commitment to citizenship, suffrage, dignity, decent work and remuneration, social identity and freedom.

Pledge to address the roots of inequality by placing gender equality, access to services and public spaces at the heart of our strategy. We also pledge to actively promote accessibility as a human right and precondition to inclusion and universal housing rights, paying particular attention to the needs of informal settlements by replacing forced evictions with policies that promote inclusion and participation.

Our vision for the future that we need must include universal access to basic services and the redefinition of essential services by incorporating the right to the city as a form of universal citizenship with renewed sets of cultural rights, such as the right to discover, create, share, enjoy and protect the local community's cultural roots, expressions and resources as a building block of peace and well-being in all cities and regions. Putting people at the center in all circumstances and placing science, technologies, artificial intelligence, and entrepreneurship in service to humanity. Particular attention is needed for cross-border localities that impact the lifestyles of many people in many cities and communities around the world.



PACT FOR THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY



PACT FOR THE FUTURE FOR PLANET

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It is a sobering fact that, even as the world exceeds its planetary boundaries, billions of people still do not have access to even the most basic services. Such exclusions are a matter of consciously chosen policy, and not the result of a lack of resources. Our current systems of consumption and production are both unsustainable and destructive, and are driving ever-increasing injustice and inequality. The Pact for the Planet stresses the need to transform our collective relationship with nature, and for local and regional governments to spearhead the development of a new vision for a shared future, in which we address climate change from a perspective of both mitigation and adaptation, re-analyze the values that shape our understanding as human beings, think global and act local, and develop pathways that are nature-positive and seriously address transactional inequalities. This is a future in which we foster proximity and the establishment of creative bubbles as multiplicitous spaces that allow us to regenerate livelihoods and local initiatives.

Against this backdrop, the Pact for the Future for the Planet abides by the following commitments:

1. Re-engineer urban planning to support more sustainable and just practices for all citizens.
2. Reflect the real and full production costs of goods and services, and not externalize their costs and/or effects.
3. Promote local economic development policies that foster new indicators based on quality of life and well-being rather than on growth and economic performance, and connect systems of cities with their surrounding rural areas.
4. Empower local communities to play a central role in protecting biodiversity, water, the environment and the planet, regenerating local employment and optimizing resources to increase quality of life and protect the environment.
5. Transition to renewable energy systems as a pressing priority in the move towards a more sustainable and just future.
6. Foster urban mobility systems that prioritize the effective and affordable movement of all people while protecting the urban environment.
7. Provide essential services, accessible to all in areas that require the least amount of travel.
8. Promote sustainable and inclusive food systems, managed and improved by all spheres of government, promoting access to high-quality food, food security and sovereignty, and resilience.
9. Harness the potential of the doughnut economy to transition from destructive to restorative models.
10. Identify mechanisms to redress the historically uneven distribution of environmental benefits and burdens and co-create systems of resilience.



WE, LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS

Acknowledge that local and regional governments urgently need to shift from the overconsumption of natural resources to the protection of biodiversity, the oceans, land, subsoil and atmosphere. Local and regional governments will play a decisive role in raising awareness and co-creating new patterns of production and consumption.

Understand that new approaches are required to balance the needs of the market and the state, while recognizing that informed and empowered citizens are the most effective vectors of transformation. However, this is all predicated on the identification and protection of the global commons. Local and regional governments have a decisive role in formulating new policy approaches, paying particular attention to the role of intermediary cities within an overall system. To address ecological crises, all levels of government must be enabled to mobilize appropriate financial means.

Recognise that current modes of production and consumption are both destructive and completely unsustainable. Faced with the challenges of the climate emergency, environmental degradation and biodiversity depletion, the urgent shift to new forms of production, consumption and daily living are essential to transforming the relationship between society, the economy and nature. Capacity-building in the application of taxonomies and opportunities for green financial instruments will be key in addressing these crises.

Pledge to address the climate, water and biodiversity crises and reinvigorate the economy through sustainable, inclusive, and environmentally-sound models of production and consumption, as well as to foster a fair and equal distribution of the benefits of climate action and resilience-building and to develop, through proximity as a precious common good, another way of life with locally created ecological, economic and social value, in accordance with the challenges facing our cities and territories.

Our vision for the future we need transcends the business-as-usual approach in the transition towards zero carbon and local resilience, and fostering radical change in the building of sustainable, equitable and resilient cities and communities must be the priority. We are committed to developing a vision that conceives these actions for our cities and territories, both from an emergency and long-term perspective, considering the rights of nature to be the same as our own. Furthermore, the climate crisis cannot be solved without the mobilization of private capital via equity, public-private partnerships or blended financial instruments. To avoid different standards, taxonomies should define clear criteria to facilitate the inflow of capital for green financial products, higher market liquidity and comparability.

PACT FOR THE FUTURE FOR GOVERNMENT

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The *Pact for Government and Democracy* calls for a redefinition of governing in Partnership. It seeks to place all citizens and communities at the core of the decision-making process. This means promoting a universal quality of life as the essential metric in place of GDP, building peace and prosperity in our towns, cities and regions, ensuring a world of well-informed and empowered citizens who are treated equally and fairly across the board, and creating a new notion of citizenship as the building block of a life with dignity and rights for all. It acknowledges that security-first approaches must not curb the rights and freedoms of our citizens, and proposes local and regional governments as spaces for bridging safety and liberty. The Pact calls for a renewed democracy that delivers on the needs and rights of citizens. The Pact further calls for a renewed impulse to well-resourced decentralization and subsidiarity, as well as for active and informed civic participation.

At all levels, building trust between citizens, institutions and communities, as well as protecting human rights and democratic values are essential preconditions for boosting our democracies and building a fairer, more inclusive and effective international system. The Pact for Government places local democracy at the heart of action, stressing the importance of representation and participation, inclusivity and empowerment in decision-making processes, as well as the urgent need to restore transparency, honesty and accountability at all levels of government as a means of rebuilding a more representative, inclusive and efficient multilateral system. For this to happen we need to ensure the necessary resources and capacity-building are provided in order to guarantee the meaningful participation of citizens in public life and decision-making. Co-responsibility and active citizenship should be at the center of democratic governance. Governments can make decisive contributions by enacting clear and consistent policies, ensuring impartial and detached administration, the consistent application of the rule of law, and the certainty of sanction.

Open and transparent data is essential in promoting accountability, as is protecting space for the independent scrutiny of government policies through public examination, debate and discussion.

Against this backdrop, the Pact for the Future for Government abides by the following commitments:

1. Promote inclusive, participatory, responsible and accountable multilevel governance leading to global action.
2. Ensure transparent budgeting to facilitate balanced revenue generation and equitable pricing for all services and ensure that government policy balances the long-term needs of citizens and the planet.



3. Protect and promote all public institutions, ensure the integrity of the justice system, and ensure equal access for all citizens.
4. Strengthen public institutions to enhance the protection of our global commons and the provision of public goods.
5. Involve the scientific community, civil society and local communities in the process of policy and decision making.
6. Promote truthful independent and accountable information sources to combat the spread of misinformation which fuels polarization and a widening cultural divide, notably in the digital sphere, and counter hate speech, threats and violence.
7. Call for feminist leadership and power sharing at all levels of government.
8. Strengthen local finance and rethink fiscal architecture to ensure secure revenue streams for improved planning and investment at the local level.
9. Contribute to the strengthening of multilateralism through a meaningful engagement with global agendas and representation in decision-making bodies.
10. Pivot the role of local and regional governments with regards to the future of work, expanding beyond legislation and job provision and acknowledging the notion of time as a currency and its lack of availability as a form of exclusion that must be addressed.

WE, LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS

Acknowledge the lack of trust between citizens and the institutions created to serve them and guarantee their rights, which negatively impacts both governance and mainstream institutions alike. We acknowledge that there is a profound need to creatively renew democratic practices, systems and institutions to foster co-responsibility and social control over public decisions, so they are better equipped to respond to the needs and aspirations of citizens. We acknowledge that, in this foundational moment, renewing democracy and citizenship largely depends on the impartial and consistent application of the rule of law. A reformed multilevel governance will need to be created, reflecting a different set of priorities that respond to the aspirations of communities and the needs of the planet.

Understand that local and regional levels of government have a critical role to play in shaping more participatory, accountable and transparent systems of governance, mixing participatory mechanisms according to the different needs and aspirations of local communities, in order to sustain a systemic, location-based and long-term democratic approach.

Recognise that the process of renewing our democratic institutions needs to be purposefully co-created, with citizens, social movements, civil society and private sectors acting in partnership.



Pledge that we will endeavor to strengthen and retool democracies and citizenship, and contribute to the much-needed reform of the architecture of international governance. We commit to making local and regional institutions more efficient, responsive and caring in order to meet the needs and reassert the rights of citizens by crafting a new value-based and rights-driven social contract. We further pledge to pursue an open, constructive and sustained structural dialogue with national governments to ensure joined-up delivery for all citizens and communities. We commit to the development of an interurban system of small, intermediary and large cities and metropolises, strengthening the urban-rural continuum and guaranteeing that this system integrates globalization while enhancing connections with the respective local and regional areas, to ensure that the next generations benefit from placing local democracy at the center of sustainable development. We further commit to actively contributing to the revitalization of the multilateral system by having a creative, constructive and influential voice in the United Nations' reform process and by providing a substantive contribution to key international summits and fora, including the 2023 SDG Summit, the Summit of the Future in 2024 and the World Social Summit in 2025.

Our vision for the future we need includes people, rights, and care-oriented democracies built on the power of citizens to allow for constructive and mutually beneficial cooperation and solidarity among all spheres of government. A central role of local and regional governments for a renewed, networked and efficient multilateral system. A multilateralist system that accepts the fact that global challenges can only be dealt with by dealing with local challenges and that, in turn, local challenges depend on global challenges. An inclusive system that takes into account the multitude of systems of cities and governance that exist to ensure that all voices and all spheres of government are included within decision-making processes.

PACT FOR THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY



ASPIRATIONS OF THE PACT

Throughout history, towns, cities and regions have always thrived through the creativity, energy and ingenuity of all the people shaping our streets, culture and society. History shows the important links between the ongoing consent of the governed and the legitimacy and strength of the government.

Through this Pact for the Future we affirm that local and regional governments embrace their critical role and responsibility to promote a more equitable and sustainable quality of life for citizens and communities alike, protecting their rights to global and local common goods while protecting the planet for future generations.

We particularly highlight the central importance of a transformed relationship with nature and the planet, whereby well-informed and empowered citizens are supported by responsive and accountable governments, and whereby humans and nature thrive in balance, including by integrating nature into urban ecosystems and breaking the binary between urban and natural settings. These relationships will prosper insofar as they are built on mutual respect and trust. Such respect and trust will allow cities to capitalize on local realities, relationships and proximities that are simultaneously geographical, temporal, social, emotional, cultural and digital, while allowing for the peaceful resolution of differences, competing priorities and conflicts. This Pact provides a pathway to realize the universal Right to the City for all. This right welcomes and builds upon the diversity that is the very strength of communities, promoting open dialogue, education and a culture of caring and sharing.

Driven by this Pact, we reaffirm the commitment of our constituency of local and regional governments to multilateralism and the centrality of international cooperation and solidarity, as well as our commitment to equality, empathy and solidarity. At the center of this commitment is the recognition that citizenship includes both rights and responsibilities, based on the principles of responsibility, equity, transgenerational and intergenerational solidarity, dignity, generational non-discrimination and sustainability of life.

We will strive to become a Global Feminist Municipal Movement and play a decisive role in centering care, both in and beyond our program, also providing inspiration and leadership for the implementation of the United Nations' Our Common Agenda. Furthermore, it is upon the solid ground of gender equality and democracy that we will build our future.

To pursue these goals, over the last few years UCLG has purposefully constructed an inclusive and global platform, galvanizing its membership to establish strategic partnerships that play a central role in driving the Pact for the Future. We will therefore pursue the objectives of this Pact with our partners in the Global Task Force, through which the unified and global voice of local and regional government networks is most effectively mobilized.

We will endeavor for this Pact to speak directly to international development agendas beyond 2030, with our organized constituency contributing to the UN Summit of the Future.



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