

**UCLG DECALOGUE**

# **TOWARDS CITIES, GOVERNMENTS AND A MULTILATERAL SYSTEM THAT CARE FOR PEOPLE, DEMOCRACY, AND OUR PLANET**

**High-impact coalitions, commitments,  
and calls to localize the 2030 Agenda**

**CITIES PEOPLE  
MULTILATERAL  
SYSTEM PEACE  
GOVERNMENTS  
2030 AGENDA  
CARE PLANET  
SOLIDARITY  
RIGHTS SOCIAL  
EQUALITY NEW  
TERRITORIES  
SUSTAINABILITY  
MUNICIPAL  
MOVEMENT**

# Towards cities, governments and a multilateral system that care for people, democracy, and our planet

## High-impact coalitions, commitments, and calls to localize the 2030 Agenda

**We, local and regional governments members of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and part of the self-organized constituency gathered within the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, are looking ahead, towards the SDG Summit and the second half of the journey we will travel by 2030, reaffirming our commitment to the global development agendas and bolstering transformative alliances and high-impact coalitions to accelerate collective progress towards the 2030 Agenda.**

We are living in a change of age, not just a time of change. For our constituency and the municipal movement, denial of the climate crisis, worsening inequalities, and threats to democracy around the world, are simply no longer acceptable. With lucidity, and solid determination, **we embrace transformation and come together to take action, unfolding the UCLG Pact for the Future of Humanity**, adopted at our last World Congress, in 2022.

We need to **bring back hope and solidarity**, across all local communities and social groups, governments, territories, and regions. We need to build a broader consensus around the shared values that guide us, based on human rights and equality, and with the SDGs as core principles. We need to expand spaces allowing us to dream, plan, vision, and organize together. This is how we will be able to hold change, through a commitment to the **power of the collective**, navigating conflicts in a way that is accountable and generative, and moving towards a common vision for our societies, governance models, and planet.

At the SDG Summit, let us unite around **strong and courageous political commitments**, up to the crises and challenges that we promise to go through together. This is how we will deliver a brighter future for all, young and old, for all genders, from the Global South to the Global North, for present and future generations. This is our opportunity to regenerate our planet and all living beings and ecosystems.

Global challenges can only be addressed by dealing with local challenges, and we, local and regional governments, are the holders of change. Calling for a renewed and more inclusive multilateral system, our constituency will contribute to the SDG Summit to emphasize local and regional governments' commitment to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, advocating for better recognition and strengthening of our **indispensable role in leaving no one and no place behind**, towards the UN Summit of the Future in 2024 and the World Social Summit in 2025.

# Towards cities, governments and a multilateral system that care for people, democracy, and our planet:

Our overarching vision, to guide the efforts of our constituency towards the 2030 Agenda and leverage impact, places **equality** at the center, and is articulated around **care** as key to revitalizing rights-based public service provision and as the basis of a new social contract. Care forms the backbone of our societies, and sustains all life on earth.

Our vision embraces all levels and areas of life and government, from interpersonal relations at the community level to multilateralism, with local and regional governments and local public service provision playing a catalyzing role, connecting action on the ground to the global development agendas and vice-versa.

This shared vision is rooted in, and further nurtures:

- ★ the **right to the city** and social inclusion
- ★ **local democracy** and a renewed governance and exercise of power, fostering trust
- ★ **commoning practices** and solidarity
- ★ a revitalized **relationship with nature**, a regenerated urban-rural continuum, and wellbeing for all
- ★ a new **economic system** enabling the transformations we envision.

Our vision can only be achieved through the co-creation of transformative partnerships and alliances, and through the strengthening of multilevel, multistakeholder and cross-sectoral governance, based on a democratic and whole-of-society approach, with the participation of all communities, in particular women and youth, and with intergenerational and cross-regional dialogue at the center.

Building upon international cooperation, solidarity and subsidiarity, we are articulating such partnerships and alliances around **high-impact coalitions**. At the SDG Summit, we will present local-global coalitions that are making a difference in multiplying policy changes and accelerating the achievement of the SDGs. **With this Decalogue, we aim to mobilize political commitment to expand and elevate them, energizing and scaling up local action with global impact.**

# #1.

## Reflecting the growth of the municipal movement, we call for greater recognition of cities, regions, territories and their networks as political actors in the multilateral system

★ Addressing the transformation of institutions to ensure that power is shared equally, our constituency shares common aspirations to renew global governance and the **multilateral system** to make them more representative and inclusive.

★ We are committed to contribute to the **renewal of multilateralism**, through meaningful engagement with the global agendas and adequate representation in decision-making bodies, bringing the voices of local communities into global conversations and renewing the notion of partnerships based cooperation and solidarity.

### GLOBAL TASKFORCE OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

The [Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments \(GTF\)](#) is the coordination and consultation mechanism bringing together the major international networks of local and regional governments worldwide, to undertake joint advocacy related to global policy processes and amplify the voice of local governments in international policy making processes. Its very existence represents a landmark achievement for the international municipal movement. Local and regional governments are the only UN non-state stakeholder to have a mechanism such as the GTF, to develop and coordinate inputs into global policy processes. The GTF convenes elected local and regional leaders from around the world in the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments, the review and follow-up mechanism of the New Urban Agenda acknowledged within the Quito Outcome document itself. It has further endeavored to secure spaces of dialogue among spheres of government for the constituency of local and regional governments. The Local and Regional Governments' Forum in the framework of the UN High Level Political Forums, and our role in the renewal of UN-Habitat, are a testament to our commitment towards the transformation of multilateralism.



★ We call for **including local and regional governments in decision-making at all levels** and in the management of global complex emergencies, as key partners in global development, with a privileged position and transformative commitment to bringing the voices of populations into global conversations.

# #2.

## As caring cities and territories, we advance a feminist agenda that guarantees equal rights for all, empowers local communities, and puts the wellbeing of people and planet as the highest priority

★ Our global **Feminist Municipal Movement** is central to fostering equitable territories where women, girls and gender diverse persons are no longer left behind, and all people can be their authentic selves and engage in their full humanity. Local feminist politics seek to foster a new way of governing, to redefine care as a right and as a public responsibility, wherein local and regional governments play a leading role through public service provision.

★ We are committed to inclusively and democratically plan and provide local public services based on **equity**, to value and redistribute care work, to fulfill human rights and to guarantee access to opportunities for all, ultimately caring for our people and planet.

### GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR CARE

Launched by the National Institute of Women in Mexico (INMUJERES) and UN-Women in the context of the 2021 Generation Equality Forum, the **Global Alliance for Care** is an urgent call to action within the broader framework of the Generation Equality Action Coalition on Economic Justice and Rights. UCLG serves as a member of its Management Committee, while its section dedicated to metropolises, the World Association of the Major Metropolises is a member. Local and regional governments from Mexico, Colombia and Argentina also represent our constituency in the Alliance. Seeking to address the historical and structural inequalities in the distribution of domestic and care work, the Alliance promotes inclusive gender equality and urges governments at all levels, as well as international organizations, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders, to take joint action to achieve equality by advancing a cultural transformation based on the recognition, reduction, remuneration and redistribution of domestic and care work among women and men, and all actors in our societies.



★ We call for a paradigm shift placing care at the centre of policy and action, from the local to the global level: **care for the human rights of all people and care for the integrity of our planet.**

# #3.

## Expanding access to quality and equitable public services, we promote urban and territorial planning favoring proximity and guaranteeing equal opportunities for all

★ Billions of people still do not have access to the most basic services, including adequate housing, and such exclusions are not the result of lack of resources, but are a matter of **political choices**. Ensuring universal access to public services requires transformational policies at all levels to redistribute resources and deliver a paradigmatic shift on care.

★ We are committed to ensuring more just conditions for all – including the residents of informal settlements – by guaranteeing **proximity and equitable access to adequate housing, local public services**, infrastructures and livelihoods through more sustainable and fairer planning, while expanding the definition of essential services, incorporating the right to the city and digital connectivity.

### CITIES ALLIANCE

**Cities Alliance** is a global partnership fighting urban poverty and supporting cities to deliver sustainable development and improve the wellbeing, health and livelihoods of the urban poor through access to basic services. Since 1999, it has engaged with national and local governments to improve governance, public service delivery and resilience through the improved and inclusive management of urbanization. It is hosted by UNOPS and within its 23 member organizations including national governments, civil society, and international organizations and UN agencies, local and regional governments are represented by UCLG, its section dedicated to metropolises, C40, ICLEI and CGLF. Cities Alliance delivers innovative and multi-sectoral solutions to urban poverty, improving the lives of local communities across 200 cities in 20 countries by 2030. It supports and implements comprehensive programmes worldwide, leveraging the collective expertise of multistakeholder partnerships to catalyze urban transformation at a global level.

### GLOBAL OBSERVATORY ON SUSTAINABLE PROXIMITIES

The **Global Observatory of Sustainable Proximities (GOSP)** was initiated by the Entrepreneurship, Territory, Innovation (ETI) Chair, UCLG, C40 and UN-Habitat at the World Urban Forum in 2022 and was officially launched at the second session of the United Nations Second Habitat Assembly in 2023. Proximity has been gaining traction among policymakers worldwide as a concept that places people at the center of urban planning to ensure an equitable distribution of all essential social functions of the city. As such, the GOSP seeks to further place this theme at the heart of local policies and drive large-scale change in urban strategies. The Observatory serves as a global go-to knowledge and capacity building platform to collect information about local initiatives while supporting and promoting urban proximities at a global scale, including by developing a globally applicable concept based on proximity, official measures and indicators, and a global center for knowledge-sharing and capacity building.



★ We call for recognizing and enabling **local public service provision as a central lever to achieving the SDGs**. We urge the generation of multilevel and multistakeholder synergies for the transformation of informal settlements and the informal sector. We pledge to collectively address the roots of inequalities and unsustainable practices by placing the right to adequate housing and neighborhood access to public services at the heart of our strategies towards 2030.

# #4.

## With human rights and peace as our horizon, we make human mobility work for all and foster social inclusion, with dignity at the center

★ In the context of a growing but insufficient recognition of our role as local and regional governments in the global governance of migration and displacement, we shaped a renewed universal commitment on human mobility: [the Lampedusa Charter](#).

★ We are committed to shifting the narrative around human mobility and to ensure the [right to the city for all](#), moving from border-centred approaches to people-centred and equality-driven vision of local public service provision, and delivering a world that recognizes the rights and contributions of all neighbors regardless of status.

### CALL TO LOCAL ACTION FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

The [Call to Local Action on Migrants and Refugees](#) gathers and supports transformative opportunities for scaling up investment and developing new local-national-global partnerships to make migration work for all. Steered by UCLG, the Mayors Migration Council, the UN Migration Agency and the UNHCR, the Call to Action supports, connects, and funds concrete actions that fulfill the goals of the Global Compacts for Migrants and Refugees and contribute to the 2030 Agenda. The Call to Action platform bridges practice-policy coherence gaps, by spurring knowledge transfer and cross-fertilization of the bold, people-centred local actions showcased, conducting peer learning on relevant governance challenges, expanding political endorsement of the Marrakech Mayors Declaration and funding concrete actions that strengthen local migration governance. Benefitting a population of over 100 million people, more than 80 actions have been collected, and more than 25 of them have been funded all over the world that account for over 23 million dollars. Furthermore, more than 100 cities have benefited from capacity building and peer-to-peer learning on crisis management, climate change related mobility, access to services and more. This year, the Call to Action plans to announce a new cohort of local pledges during the UNHCR Global Refugee Forum in December 2023 and the GFMD Summit in January 2024.



★ We call for the recognition of the role of local and regional governments in [governing human mobility with human rights at the center](#), we urge the international community to stop the criminalization of migration, and we stand for the revision of the notions of borders and citizenship to bring them closer to our vision of inclusive and caring societies.



# #5.

## To shape an equitable future based on human rights and dignity, we foster social inclusion and accessibility in urban policies and plans

★ Accessibility is an internationally recognized human right and is critical for the inclusion and fundamental freedoms of all, and in particular of older persons and persons with disabilities. Mainstreaming accessibility and universal design as fundamental principles in public policies and plans benefits society as a whole by creating welcoming, safe, and user-friendly environments for everyone.

★ We are committed to promoting **accessibility as a human right and as a precondition to social inclusion**, by making the shift towards equitable public service provision shaped by diversity and dignity. This includes improving capacities to implement accessibility in our cities and territories, developing training and awareness-raising, and supporting the meaningful involvement of organizations of persons with disabilities and older persons in the design, implementation and monitoring of urban policies and programs across all sectors.

### CITIES FOR ALL GLOBAL INITIATIVE AND CAMPAIGN

The [Cities for All](#) Global Initiative advances the implementation of the principles of universal design and accessibility in urban development through a multi year Global Campaign with many cities around the world. The initiative started in 2018, with the launch of the Global Compact on Inclusive and Accessible Cities, when mayors and city leaders from New York, Chicago, São Paulo, Laayoune, Curitiba and Amman stated their commitment towards inclusive and accessible cities for persons with disabilities and older persons. The Global Compact is a declaration that aligns key commitments to accessibility, universal design and inclusion with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the 2030 Agenda, the New Urban Agenda, and the World Health Organization's Age Friendly Cities Framework. This global call for action to address equity and inclusion lies at the core of the Cities For All Campaign. UCLG, together with World Enabled and the Cities for All Network, has taken a leading role in promoting this campaign, working closely with UN-Habitat, the German National Development Agencies, the UN Special Envoy on Accessibility and the UN Special Rapporteur on Disability. Today, more than 20 cities are part of the campaign, including Barcelona, Rio de Janeiro, Puebla, Kisumu, Villa Carlos Paz, Dubai and Mersin, and many more. A key outcome of the coalition is the creation of the UCLG Community of Practice on Inclusive and Accessible Cities and Territories, which serves as a mechanism for implementation of the campaign.



★ We call for developing, enacting and monitoring the implementation of accessibility standards in line with the principles of **universal design** and international standards, ensuring disability-inclusive and age-responsive public policies and programs, in strategic partnership with local and regional governments, civil society, academia and the private sector.

# #6.

## We promote culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development, we connect culture, creativity and transformation, and we support the global advocacy for a Culture Goal

★ Culture is what makes us humans. Development is only sustainable if its cultural dimension is explicit: heritage in all forms, diversity, creativity, transmission of knowledge, and intercultural dialogue. The achievement of a large number of SDGs and their targets relies on being operational with their cultural dimension, and on involving cultural actors in the localisation process.

★ We are committed to further recognize and foster the crucial role culture plays in the wellbeing of our communities and sustainable development, and to support **cultural rights and heritage** now and towards the future.

### CULTURE 2030 GOAL CAMPAIGN

Building upon the advocacy and initiatives of several cultural global networks during the process of creation and adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, the **Culture 2030 Goal Campaign** was initiated in 2018, calling for a stronger place for culture throughout the implementation of the current UN 2030 Agenda, the adoption of an explicit Goal for Culture in the Post-2030 Development Agenda, and the adoption of an ambitious and comprehensive Global Agenda for Culture. It is led seven global actors, including the UCLG Culture Committee, Arterial Network, Culture Action Europe, International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity (IFCCD), International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), International Music Council (IMC). Since 2020, different publications have been released in the framework of the campaign, including reports analyzing the VNRs and VLRs as well as a concrete proposal on a stand-alone Culture Goal with 10 targets.



★ We call for the inclusion of a **Culture Goal** in the 2030 Agenda, to give full coherence to the place of culture in sustainability as well as in the ecological and social transitions we need.

# #7.

## By renaturing urbanization and fostering health, we reembed cities within natural systems, restoring the vitality of both

★ Historically, cities started off as minor insertions within wider robust ecological landscapes. Today, cities consume the bulk of the resources extracted from nature, and are the spaces in which almost all negative environmental impacts occur. Since the launching of the Paris Agreement in 2015, however, cities are seen as the place where we can reimagine the relations between urbanization and nature, in practical and socially just ways.

★ We are committed to tackling the commodification and undermining of vital ecological systems and services both in and around cities, to enhancing the **health and well-being of all**, to fostering sustainable and circular resource use and local food systems, and to preventing processes of environmental inequality, green gentrification, and spatial exclusion, therefore halting the displacement and externalization of risks to the most marginalized social groups and geographies, and also to future generations.

### GLOBAL COVENANT OF MAYORS FOR CLIMATE AND ENERGY

The [Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy \(GCoM\)](#) is the largest global alliance for city climate leadership, built upon the commitment of over 10,000 local and regional governments. It aims at supporting local governments in aligning with and further advancing globally-coherent and regionally-tailored climate solutions, in alliance with city networks. Fostering a resilient and low-emission society, the cities and partners of the GCoM focus on climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as increased access to clean and affordable energy. Based on a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, the GCoM supports ambitious, locally relevant solutions in sectors where cities can have the most significant impact.



★ We call for transcending the economic dependence on natural resource extraction and carbon-intensive development that currently exacerbate socio-economic inequalities and cause socio-environmental injustices, to ultimately **enable current and future generations of human and non-human species to have equal opportunities to thrive.**

# #8.

## Supporting the restructuring of our food systems to make them more inclusive, resilient and sustainable, we redefine our models of production and consumption

★ Local and regional governments are key players in co-creating sustainable and inclusive food systems that consider the **urban-rural continuum** and the entire value chain, fostering the right to quality and healthy food for all and putting care for people and the planet at the center..

★ We are committed to transform the relationship between communities, governments, economies and nature, by transforming our **production and consumption models** and in particular, by fostering inclusive and sustainable food systems and the emergence of a food democracy that ensures all inhabitants have access to sufficient, healthy and sustainable food, and agency in co-creating the food systems in their territories.

### URBAN FOOD SYSTEMS COALITION

The **Urban Food Systems (UFS) Coalition** supports sustainable and inclusive transformation of urban food systems to advance equitable access to safe and nutritious food for all. Building upon the work of city networks, non-governmental organizations, academia, and key UN institutions since 2020, the coalition emerged from the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit in recognition of the importance of the urban food agenda at the local, national and international levels. UCLG is one of the lead organizations taking part in it, and supports the Coalition's secretariat, made up of FAO, ICLEI and GAIN. The coalition offers a platform to better connect small, intermediary and larger metropolitan cities with national governments to promote coherent food policy and coordinated action. Fostering dialogue between a wide range of actors, the coalition leverages expertise and facilitates knowledge and experience exchange, strengthening multilevel and multistakeholder governance.



★ We call for **inclusive, resilient, and sustainable food systems** that are co-created by communities, as well as national and global policy processes that regenerate our production and consumption models, by recognizing the critical role of local and regional governments and by enabling their mandates and budgets to secure access to nutritious food and prioritize peoples' wellbeing.

# #9.

## Building trust between citizens, communities and governments, we protect human rights and safeguard local democracy

★ Based on renewed and strengthened political representation of the youth, women, and historically underrepresented groups, strengthening local democracy allows to regain trust and leverage it as an enabler for the global agendas' implementation.

★ We are committed to rebuilding **trust** by reinstating the value of **local democracy**, placing local communities at the core of decision-making processes, ensuring that all citizens and residents are well-informed and empowered, guaranteeing and freedom of speech and conscience, and reinforcing transparent, participatory, multilevel, multistakeholder and cross-sectoral governance.

### INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATORY ON PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

The [International Observatory on Participatory Democracy \(IOPD\)](#) is an international network open to all cities, organizations and research centers interested in learning about, exchanging and applying experiences of participatory democracy at the local level. It was founded in 2001 within the framework of the European Commission's URB-AL program for decentralized cooperation and its official constitution was in 2001 in Barcelona, during the 1st IOPD Conference. It has worked together with UCLG since 2006. Articulating an annual conference, an award on citizen participation, working groups and different publications, the IOPD aims at creating synergies between cities, organizations and research centers, producing knowledge and sharing experiences and innovations in the local participatory democracy field around the world, and define political recommendations with and for local and regional governments.



★ We call for a broader recognition of what democratic legitimacy entails, for the strengthening of public institutions, for the development of a new culture of democratic emergency governance, and for a **renewed and feminist leadership** at all levels of government. We call for shaping a multilateral system that places value on local democratic institutions to ensure that communities and their institutions can trust each other again.

# We strengthen capacities and resources for redistributive and caring subnational financial environments and systems, and we advocate for accelerating the localization of financing

# #10.

★ In our economic systems, rather than the lack of resources, it is their unfair distribution and unconscious use that are undermining basic human needs and spending on social infrastructure. There is an urgent need to shift from our current economic system, based on never-ending economic growth and extractivism. We need to rethink growth, development, progress and our political priorities through the lenses of redistribution, decentralization, local and global commons, and care.

★ We are committed to make sure finance is put at the service of the health of humans and the planet, by providing continued, universal, inclusive public services for all. We are committed to engage in systemic change to overcome barriers at different levels in the financing chain, to encourage financial innovation and experimentation, as well as to create alliances to scale-up **financing for the SDGs**, with peers and other spheres of government and stakeholders.

### MALAGA GLOBAL COALITION FOR MUNICIPAL FINANCE

The [Malaga Global Coalition for Municipal Finance](#) brings together diverse stakeholders, led by UNCDF, UCLG, the FMDV and the City of Malaga, to discuss and provide innovative solutions to redefine finances and economy and advocating for open, accessible and verifiable information and data, in order to make the international financial ecosystem more fit to the needs of local and regional governments. The Coalition aims to ensure financial resilience for sustainable transformative investments and local public service provision for citizens' well-being, promoting participatory processes with a gender-responsive perspective. Building effective partnerships for financing and managing local infrastructure assets and leveraging private finance to increase capital flows are two priorities that led to the setting up of the International Municipal Investment Fund managed by Meridiam and its complementary Technical Assistance Facility with UNCDF, UCLG and FMDV to build the project pipeline. Priority is given to funding transformative projects that positively contribute to the SDGs and are led by intermediary or secondary cities in developing countries.

### GLOBAL COMMISSION FOR URBAN SDG FINANCE

Launched in Paris in June 2023, on the occasion of the Summit for a New Global Financial Pact, the [Global Commission for Urban SDG Finance](#) aims at addressing the challenge of financing both development and climate goals and developing innovative policies to secure urban climate finance. Co-chaired by Jeff Sachs, co-chair and founder of SDSN, Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris and UCLG and Ambassador of the UCLG Pact for the Future of Planet, and Eduardo Paes, Mayor of Rio de Janeiro, the Commission will include around 20 members, including scholars, international organizations, practitioners and local government representatives. It will be supported by a Secretariat hosted by the University of Pennsylvania. The Commission will focus on the incorporation of local and regional governments in the reshaping of global finance architecture; financing mechanisms that work effectively for local governments and the mobilization of new capital. Further, the Commission will analyze barriers to urban SDG finance, evaluate proposals to improve urban finance access, and develop new strategies and mechanisms to better align the global finance architecture with urban needs.



★ We call for a transformational shift in our financial and economic systems for new production, consumption, taxation and investment patterns that can sustain resilient local economies where **local and global commons** are managed through non-market approaches and where priority is given to the well-being of all. We call for reshaping global economic governance to make it more participatory, inclusive and democratic, by promoting a more distributive international financial framework and strengthening local government finance.

**Our constituency's commitment is stronger than ever: together with other spheres of governments, local communities and civil society, as well as international organizations, and other key partners, we are scaling up the transformative initiatives co-created in our territories, through high-impact coalitions and alliances, as well as multilevel, multistakeholder and cross-sectoral governance. For a world that bridges local actions and global trends, and enables local actions with global impact.**

**In the midst of crises, chaos and conflicts, let us come together and regain our collective strength and power of action, regenerating hope and solidarity, catalyzing action and achieving the 2030 Agenda.**

**Regenerating hope  
and catalyzing collective action,  
we reaffirm our commitment  
to localizing the global agendas.**

**Join us to bolster  
high-impact coalitions  
and achieve the SDGs!**