

Local SDG Rescue Plan

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 gathering as a self-organized constituency within the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, are looking ahead to the World Social Summit and the journey we must undertake by 2030. We reaffirm our commitment to the global development agendas, and are building high-impact coalitions and transformative alliances to advance a new social contract that cares for our people, planet, and governance.

The localization of global agendas for sustainable development and equality is at the heart of our constituency's priorities and the Municipal Movement. Embracing our mandate with clarity and determination, we unite to rescue the SDGs by 2030. Through the right to the city, we are committed to ensuring adequate and sustainable housing integrated with local public service provision. We are engaged in promoting the right and equitable access to land by understanding its management as part of the commons. Together with our communities and stakeholders, we work to reduce poverty, end hunger, while promoting health and well-being for all. We are accelerating the ecological transition, rooted in social justice. We safeguard democracy and build peace from the ground up.

We bring back **hope and solidarity** across all local communities, governments, territories, and regions. Yet, 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 scale up progress, through a commitment to the **power of the collective**, navigating conflicts in an accountable and generative way, and moving towards a common vision for our societies, governance models, and planet.

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.

Calling for a renewed and more inclusive multilateral system, our constituency will contribute to the **Second World Summit for Social Development** (World Social Summit) in 2025 by supporting structural dialogue with other stakeholders around the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, and enhancing the articulation and commitment of our high-impact coalitions.

Localizing the World Social Summit: **The Local Social Covenant**

For the self-organized constituency of local and regional governments together with its partnership ecosystem, the World Social Summit will be a critical moment to galvanize a multistakeholder, multilevel coalition that, driven by local public service provision, puts reducing inequalities at the center of **a new social contract**.

The Local Social Covenant is a multi-stakeholder political coalition focused on **localization** to build a society of rights and reduce poverty and social inequality in the final stretch to 2030. Its goal is to **envison local and regional futures**, accelerate political commitments, and foster collaboration among mayors, governors, and stakeholders focused on urban dynamics. The coalition will promote integrated solutions to global economic, social, and environmental challenges, working closely with the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments, UCLG Town Hall, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector.

The Local Social Covenant will channel:

- * **A platform for structural dialogue among stakeholders**
- * **High-level political commitments**
- * **Actionable solutions for present and future generations**
- * **Multilateral strategies for implementation**

Local SDG Rescue Plan

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

Commitments, coalitions and calls to localize the 2030 Agenda

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 and peace

★ **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**. These local-global coalitions are the foundation of the **Local SDG Rescue Plan**. They mobilize political commitment to accelerate localization, energizing and scaling up local action with global impact.

01.

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 contributing to the **renewal of multilateralism**, through meaningful engagement in intergovernmental processes, bringing the voice of the local government constituency into global conversations and acknowledging our unique role as guardians of public trust and enablers of transformative change.

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.



PARTNERS

UCLG, Resilient Cities Network, Mayors Migration Council, ICLEI, AIMF, CLGF, Mercociudades, FLACMA, Regions4, UCLG Eurasia, Metropolis, UCLG Regions, CEMR, UCLG ASPAC, UCLG NORAM, UCLG Africa, UCLG MEWA, Cités Unies France, ORU FOGAR, FMDV, PLATFORMA, C40 Cities, UCCI, ALLAS, Assembly of European Regions, Global Parliament of Mayors

★ Supporting the recommendations of the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments, 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.

02.

As caring cities and territories, we prioritize equal rights and promote urban and territorial planning favoring proximity to local public services 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. The global **Feminist Municipal Movement** is central 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, while expanding the definition of essential services, incorporating the right to the city and digital connectivity.

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.



PARTNERS (Management Committee)

Government of Mexico, UN Women, Government of Argentina, Government of Spain, UCLG, International Domestic Workers Federation, Huairou Commission, International Trade Union Confederation, Latin American Gender and Justice Team (ELA), Fondo Semillas México

GLOBAL COALITION FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

Our world faces multiple and interconnected challenges to social justice, stemming from overlapping crises and long-term structural economic transformations. Rising rates of extreme poverty, working poverty, child labour, youth unemployment, and informal work underscore the urgency of addressing inequalities and ensuring decent work globally. The Global Coalition for Social Justice unites partners from governments, employers' and workers' organizations, international institutions, enterprises, non-governmental organizations, and academic institutions. Led by the International Labour Organization (ILO), this coalition of which UCLG is a partner, has a mission to foster multilateral cooperation and accelerate progress toward the SDGs, championing social justice on a global scale. The coalition aims at enhancing advocacy, promoting policy coherence, and generating knowledge.



PARTNERS (main)

ILO

WORLD FORUM ON LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The World Forum on Local Economic Development (WFLED) promotes international dialogue and the exchange of local economic development experiences, as a platform that transforms a global alliance of committed actors into concrete partnerships at the national and local level. UCLG is a member of the international committee of the Forum, alongside United Nations' and international organizations, and plays a key role within the steering committee, supporting the organization of activities, setting the agenda, and ensuring alignment with local government priorities. The next edition of the Forum will be held from April 1 to 4, 2025, in Seville, Spain, with the goals of strengthening global alliances and consolidating a network of governments, international organizations, and local actors. The Forum not only enriches collective knowledge but also allows to discover innovative solutions adaptable to different local contexts. The WFLED focuses its efforts on local experiences, recognizing that the most effective solutions arise within the communities themselves. By building development models tailored to the specific needs of each territory, it ensures that interventions are relevant and sustainable, directly impacting poverty reduction.



PARTNERS (conveners and hosts of the VI Forum)

FAMSI, UCLG, UCLG Committee on Local Economic Development, UNDP, ILO, ORU Fogar, FMDV, Municipality of Seville, Province of Seville, Junta de Andalucía, Government of Spain

GLOBAL OBSERVATORY ON SUSTAINABLE PROXIMITIES

The Global Observatory of Sustainable Proximities (GOSP) was initiated in the context of the World Urban Forum in 2022 and officially launched at the second session of the United Nations Second Habitat Assembly in 2023. Proximity is now established among policymakers worldwide as a concept that places people at the center of urban planning to ensure an equitable distribution and access to 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 and knowledge exchange 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.



PARTNERS

Université Paris 1 Pantheon Sorbonne, UN-Habitat, UCLG

★ 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. We call for recognizing and enabling **local public service provision as a central lever to achieving the SDGs.**

03.

With human rights, peace, and dignity as our guiding principles, we foster social inclusion and protect human mobility, and we place accessibility at the center

★ Mainstreaming accessibility and universal design as fundamental principles in public policies and planning benefits society as a whole by creating welcoming, safe, and user-friendly environments for everyone. 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 promoting **accessibility as a human right** and as a precondition to social inclusion. We are committed to shifting the narrative around human mobility and ensuring 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.

WORLD HUMAN RIGHTS CITIES FORUM

Recognizing that all forms of inequalities and discrimination threaten the realization of human rights for all, Human Rights Cities draw up strategies and implement initiatives that address poverty and inequalities by leveraging the power of cooperation, solidarity and social justice to encourage meaningful citizen participation. The World Human Rights Cities Forum (WHRCF) has been held in Gwangju, Republic of Korea, since 2011 as an annual event, to realize the vision of a human rights city. Hosted by the city of Gwangju, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UNESCO, the National Human Rights Commission of Korea, and the Gwangju Metropolitan Office for Education, the Forum is organized by the Gwangju International Center, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute, and the UCLG Commission on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy, and Human Rights (UCLG CISDP). The 2023 declaration reaffirms the commitment to implement the Resolution on Local Government and Human Rights since its adoption by the UN Human Rights Council – which recognized the significance of the Human Rights Cities movement.



PARTNERS (Hosts and organizers)

Gwangju, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UNESCO, National Human Rights Commission of Korea, Gwangju Metropolitan Office for Education, Gwangju International Center, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute, UCLG Commission on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy, and Human Rights (UCLG CISDP)

CITIES COALITION FOR DIGITAL RIGHTS

The Cities Coalition for Digital Rights, founded in 2018 by the cities of Amsterdam, Barcelona, and New York, now includes over 50 cities worldwide, forming a global network dedicated to advancing digital rights in urban settings, with concrete missions and goals to work towards the implementation of principles to make cities' digital transformation more equitable, open, inclusive, and sustainable. The Coalition supports cities in addressing the emerging field of digital rights policy-making, fostering collaboration to tackle shared digital challenges. It is committed to promoting and defending human rights in digital environments by developing legal, ethical, and operational frameworks for cities. Supported by Eurocities, UCLG, and UN-Habitat as part of the Executive Committee, the Coalition works to ensure that technology serves the public good while safeguarding citizens' rights.



PARTNERS

UCLG, UN-Habitat, Eurocities

COALITION LOCAL ACTION FOR MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Building on the Call to Local Action on Migrants and Refugees, the Coalition seeks to expand its reach and ensure that partnerships, outreach, impact, and community-building processes are effectively implemented in a collective and more structural effort. Guided by UCLG, the Mayors Migration Council, the UN Migration Agency, and in collaboration with UNHCR, the coalition leverages the Call to Action to gather and support transformative opportunities for scaling up investment and developing new local-national-global partnerships to make migration work for all, fulfilling 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 announced over 120 local pledges during the UNHCR Global Refugee Forum in December 2023 and the 2024 GFMD Summit.



PARTNERS

UCLG, IOM, MMC, UNHCR

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 worldwide. 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 the implementation of the campaign.



PARTNERS (main)

World Enabled, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, German Corporation for International Cooperation, Disability Inclusive and Accessible Urban Development Network

★ We call for the recognition of the role of local and regional governments in **governing human mobility with human rights at the center**, 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. We call for ensuring disability-inclusive and age-responsive public policies and programs, in line with the principles of universal design and international standards.

04.

We reposition the right to housing as a priority for equity and sustainable development, recognizing it as a cornerstone of human rights and essential for access to local public services

★ The current housing crisis, marked by historical socio-economic inequalities, spatial segregation and discrimination, underscores the urgent need to address housing through an intersectional lens. Poverty, homelessness, gender-based disparities, and the prevalence of informal housing are all interconnected challenges that must be tackled holistically.

★ We commit to upholding **housing as a fundamental human right**, essential for the fulfillment of many other rights, by promoting the social function of land through self-construction, commoning, equitable titling, and location, while ensuring housing justice as vital infrastructure for inclusive and caring cities and regions. We ensure more just conditions for all – including the residents of informal settlements – by guaranteeing proximity and equitable access to adequate housing, local public services, and livelihoods.

HUB FOR HOUSING JUSTICE

The Hub for Housing Justice, led by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), is a collaborative initiative focused on transforming housing systems to promote anti-discriminatory, democratic, sustainable, and caring housing futures. It aims to empower civil society groups to influence policy making, advocating for just and sustainable housing, reducing poverty and discrimination, addressing the needs of migrants and marginalized communities, and enhancing climate resilience. Led by civil society and research organizations, the Hub co-designs housing justice agendas, curates and shares resources, aligns advocacy efforts, and facilitates learning and action across diverse contexts and localities. As a key partner, UCLG focuses primarily on advocacy and outreach activities, amplifying the hub's efforts to influence policy making and raise awareness on housing justice globally.



PARTNERS

IIED, Habitat International Coalition (HIC), Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR), Global Platform for the Right to the City (GPR2C), World Habitat, Instituto Pólis, Housing Justice Network, The Bartlett Development Planning Unit, University College London, UCLG

★ We call for the inclusion of housing rights in key international processes, recognizing the role of local governments in transforming informal settlements and **addressing poverty and inequalities**, with a focus

INFORMALITY TASKFORCE

Access to adequate housing and land is one of the most pressing challenges of today, directly linked to addressing poverty and inequalities and fulfilling many other human rights. Housing justice is a necessary infrastructure for caring cities and regions, providing a foundation for social wellbeing, while acknowledging its link with the loss and damages that disproportionately affect vulnerable populations. Through the works of the Informality Taskforce led by Cities Alliance and bringing together UCLG, Habitat for Humanity, Slum Dwellers International, UN-Habitat, or South Africa, among others, we recommit to leave no one behind and promote the opportunities and benefits of urbanization to all inhabitants to lead decent, dignified and rewarding lives.



PARTNERS

Cities Alliance, UCLG, South Africa, UN-Habitat, Habitat for Humanity, Slum Dwellers International

on adequate housing and access to public services as central to our strategies toward 2030, especially in view of the World Social Summit.

05.

By renaturing urbanization and fostering health, we advance climate justice and we re-embed cities within natural systems, restoring the vitality of both

★ Historically, cities were 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.



PARTNERS

UCLG, ICLEI, C40, Bloomberg Philanthropies, CEMR, Climate Alliance, Energy Cities, Eurocities, Fedarene, European Committee of the Regions, European Commission

LOCAL AND SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS' COALITION CONSULTATION TO END PLASTIC POLLUTION

In February 2022, at the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2), a historic resolution (resolution 5/14) was adopted to develop an international legally binding instrument to contain plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. The Local and Subnational Governments Coalition to End Plastic Pollution is an international coalition of local and regional governments and partners, convened by UCLG and ICLEI with the regional governments of Catalunya and Quebec. The collective goal is to engage Member States and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution (INC)-Secretariat during and post-INC negotiations with a unified voice. The coalition seeks to ensure that the future international instrument on plastic pollution has a high ambition to address plastic pollution, and create healthy and thriving communities and workforce in line with the principles of a just transition, while ensuring a sustainable economy.



PARTNERS

UCLG, ICLEI, Government of Quebec, Government of Catalonia

COALITION FOR HIGH AMBITION MULTILEVEL PARTNERSHIPS

At COP28, cities and subnational governments were given a significant role in addressing climate change, with unprecedented participation from over 500 mayors, governors, and local leaders. This included events such as the first Local Climate Action Summit (LCAS) and the second Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change. A key outcome of the LCAS was the launch of Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP), an initiative by the COP28 Presidency with support from Bloomberg Philanthropies and the main local and subnational governments networks and organizations, including the LGMA. CHAMP, endorsed by 72 countries, aims to ensure cooperation between national and subnational governments in climate planning, financing, and implementation, guaranteeing that future NDCs include robust subnational actions for emissions reduction and resilience. It represents a significant step in long-term advocacy for multilevel climate action. CHAMP is currently being rolled out by the organized constituency of local and regional governments through three main processes: the CHAMP Partners Group, Convened by the COP28 Presidency, the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Working Group on the CHAMP initiative, and the GCoM Taskforce on CHAMP, under the Global-Regional Coordination Technical Working Group.



PARTNERS

America Is All In, Bloomberg Philanthropies, C40, CDP, ECF, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, ICLEI, NDC Partnership, UN Climate Change High-Level Champions, Under2 Coalition, UN-Habitat, WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities

GLOBAL WATER OPERATORS' PARTNERSHIPS ALLIANCE

From public utilities that supply water and sewerage services to millions of customers in capital cities, to small units in local governments of towns and community-based operators in rural areas or slums, water operators provide fundamental services that enable progress in virtually all aspects of sustainable development. The Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA) is a UN-Habitat-led initiative focused on enhancing water and sanitation services globally through not-for-profit partnerships between water operators (WOPs) by promoting their awareness, funding, and effectiveness in addressing challenges faced by water utilities. It focuses on raising awareness about WOPs as cost-effective solutions for improving services and achieving financial sustainability while aligning with global commitments like the Human Rights to Water and Sanitation and Agenda 2030. GWOPA provides guidance, knowledge, and tools for effective WOPs, and fosters collaboration among a diverse network of members, partners, and platforms. UCLG has recently formalized its membership in GWOPA and is in the process of establishing a strategic alliance with the organization to enhance decentralized cooperation and peer learning on water and sanitation issues, empowering cities and regions to contribute more effectively to the global water agenda and SDG 6.



PARTNERS (main)

UN-Habitat

UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE 2030 MOVEMENT

Health goes much further than health services in UCLG. Through its involvement as part of the Universal Health Coverage 2030 Movement led by the World Health Organization and the World Bank, UCLG has been engaged in the High-Level Meetings on Universal Health Coverage, and Pandemic Preparedness and Response, marking the first time in national governments review the commitments undertaken in 2019 on the first high-level meeting on Universal Health Coverage. UCLG is part of the Taskforce that is developing the State of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) Progress Report yearly, in partnership with the Universal Health Coverage 2030 Movement. UCLG has also been a part of the Action Agenda from the UHC movement, a set of action-oriented policy recommendations, that aims to rally countries and stakeholders behind a set of concrete actions and milestones and strengthen coherence in political processes related to health.



PARTNERS (main)

WHO, World Bank, OECD, Global Cities Hub

★ 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.**

06.

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

★ Local and regional governments are key players in co-creating resilient 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 **end hunger** while transforming the relationship between communities, governments, economies and nature, by transforming our production and consumption models and in particular, by fostering local food systems supporting food sovereignty.

UN'S COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY

The UN's Committee on World Food Security (CFS) is the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to ensure food security and nutrition for all. It uses a multi-stakeholder approach to develop and endorse policy recommendations and guidance on various food security and nutrition topics. UCLG is part of the Advisory Bureau and Group of the CFS, ensuring the local and regional government constituency is involved in its work. This participation allows UCLG to connect with other partners, such as GAIN and FIAN. This year's session will focus on the 2024 State of Food Security and Nutrition report, the update of the CFS Multi-Year Program of Work for 2024-2027, and the HLPE-FSN report on "Strengthening Urban and Peri-Urban Food Systems to Achieve Food Security and Nutrition in the Context of Urbanization and Rural Transformation." Additionally, it will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the CFS Right to Food Guidelines for women and men, and all actors in our societies.

MILAN URBAN FOOD POLICY PACT

The Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) is an international agreement of mayors launched by the Mayor of Milan in 2014, aimed at tackling food-related issues at the urban level. The Pact stands as a concrete tool for cities, and it is composed by a preamble and a Framework for Action listing 37 recommended actions, clustered in 6 categories. For each recommended action there are specific indicators to monitor progresses in implementing the Pact. The categories of actions focus on: Governance, Sustainable Diets and Nutrition, Social and economic Equity, Food Production, Food Supply and Distribution and Food Waste.



PARTNERS (Steering committee)

Milan, Birmingham, Barcelona, Istanbul, Dakar, Addis Ababa, Jabalpur, Seoul, Bandung, Baltimore, Guadalajara, Belo Horizonte, Rosario



PARTNERS (main)

FAO, IFAD, World Food Programme

★ We call for the recognition of local and regional governments as key actors in building inclusive, resilient, and sustainable local food systems. National and global policy processes must enable their mandates and budgets to secure access to nutritious

food, combat hunger, and regenerate our production and consumption models, all while prioritizing communities' wellbeing and fostering co-creation at every level.

07.

Building trust between communities and governments, we safeguard local democracy, promote peace, and empower women's political participation

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

★ We are committed to **regenerating trust and building peace** by reinstating the value of **local democracy**, placing local communities at the core of decision-making processes, promoting women's political participation and alliances with women's organizations and feminist movements, 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.



PARTNERS

Barcelona, Grenoble, Montreal, Valongo, Lyon, Sao Paulo, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions

GLOBAL DEMOCRACY COALITION

The Global Democracy Coalition, launched in 2021, is a strategic alliance of democracy organizations worldwide. Initially formed to engage with the Summit for Democracy, the Coalition has since evolved into a key platform for dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and advocacy. It brings together various stakeholders to collaborate on advancing and protecting democratic values globally, with a focus on influencing the Summits for Democracy and related actions. By working collectively on critical issues, the Coalition strengthens the collective voice of its members in promoting democracy on the international stage. UCLG has joined this Coalition to enhance local democracy and promote multilevel governance on the international stage. By participating in the Global Democracy Coalition, UCLG contributes to shaping democratic policies that reflect the needs and aspirations of local communities, further reinforcing its mission to make local democracy a pillar of global governance.



PARTNERS (coordinators and steering committee)

International IDEA, Counterpart International, Accountability Lab, Alliance for Vietnam's Democracy, Alliance of Democracies, DT Institute, Humanity United and Partners Global

GENERATION EQUALITY ACTION COALITION ON FEMINIST MOVEMENTS AND LEADERSHIP

The Generation Equality Action Coalition on Feminist Movements and Leadership (AC FML), is a coalition launched in 2021 during the Generation Equality Forum. It is co-chaired by UCLG and CREA, with UN Women as the convener. It brings together diverse actors, including women's movements, youth-led organizations, civil society, international bodies, and governments from the Global North and South. By 2026, the FML envisions a world where feminist leaders, activists, and women's human rights defenders are fully supported and able to participate in global decision-making. The coalition prioritizes increasing financial and policy support for feminist movements, protecting civic space for activism, promoting women's representation in leadership, and elevating young feminist and girl-led movements.



PARTNERS (convener and co-chairs)

UN Women, UCLG, CREA

CITIES FOR CHILDREN

The Global Alliance – Cities4Children is an interdisciplinary alliance launched in 2020 at the World Urban Forum, at an event co-hosted by Save the Children, UNICEF, IFRC, ARUP and the European Network for Child-Friendly Cities. Since then, the membership has expanded to over 25 member organizations, including UCLG. Cities4Children was established to tackle and embed the huge challenges and numerous issues faced by children living in urban areas, especially the most marginalized children, in the urban agendas. The alliance adopts a people-centered, participatory and inclusive approach, believing that together we will achieve greater collective impact and influence, avoid replication and siloed work, and be able to encourage country and city-level collaboration. The Coalition aims to change the narrative on urban areas that are fit for children.



PARTNERS (member organizations)

African Centre for Cities, ARUP, Van Leer Foundation, BYCS, Child in the City, Cities Alliance, Equity for Children, FIA Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, ICLEI, IFRC, IIPA, iRAP, ISOCARP, GDCl, Plan International, Salurba, Save the Children, sdi, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UCL, UCLG, UN-Habitat, UN environment, UNHCR, Unicef, World Vision

WORLD FORUM OF CITIES AND TERRITORIES OF PEACE

UCLG acts as the Secretariat of the World Forum on Cities and Territories of Peace, a political process of dialogue between different stakeholders that aims to contribute to the construction of peace as a constituent part of sustainable development, within the framework of the aspirations embodied in the 2030 Agenda. The Forum understands Peace both as a goal and a process to build a common vision of an equal and inclusive society, preventing the outbreak, escalation, continuation and recurrence of conflict. This is a shared responsibility between governments and other actors at the local and national levels, including civil society. UCLG's agenda on peacebuilding feeds the Forum and is also nurtured by the debates and participation within it. The Fourth edition of the Forum took place in Bogota in 2023, and the fifth will take place in Montevideo in 2025. Previous editions of the Forum have taken place in Madrid (2017, 2018) and Mexico City (2021).

UCLG's Peace agenda also aims at fostering city diplomacy and building on the potential of city-to-city dialogues and cooperation to bridge conflicts through the UCLG Municipal Peace Talks. The UCLG Peace Prize, awarded in the framework of the UCLG World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders, recognizes local and regional governments that have developed innovative peacebuilding initiatives.



PARTNERS

Montevideo, Strong Cities Network, Peace in Our Cities, VNG International

★ 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 governments to foster peace and ensure that communities and their institutions can trust each other again.

08.

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.



PARTNERS

UCLG Culture Committee, Arterial Network, Culture Action Europe, ICOMOS, International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity, IFLA, International Music Council

★ 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.

09.

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

★ 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. Within the Coalition, UCLG is supporting the launch of the Guarantee Facility Fund for Cities, a collaborative initiative with UNCDF, UN-Habitat, and the European Commission. This project aims to empower cities by fostering innovative development projects that drive meaningful impact.



PARTNERS

UNCDF, UCLG, FMDV, City of Malaga

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 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.




PARTNERS

Penn Institute for Urban Research, UN-SDSN, City of Paris, City of Rio de Janeiro


★ 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. At the fourth **Conference on Financing for Development**, we will further 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 government, 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.**





**United Cities and Local
Governments (UCLG)**



PACT FOR THE FUTURE
OF HUMANITY

