

# MUNICIPAL *times.*

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A publication developed with UCLG to leverage the knowledge mobilized by local and regional governments and stakeholders in key global events.

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## EDITORIAL

# GIVING VOICE TO THE “POWER OF WE”

Welcome to the first edition of the *Municipal Times*, launched by the Urban Journalism Institute and OnCities2030 with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). It is an honor to collaborate with UCLG during this historical time in the context of the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders and the UCLG World Congress being held in Daejeon, Republic of Korea.

The *Municipal Times* unifies two complementary goals: the core vision of UCLG to amplify the voices of the municipal movement, and the foundational mission of the Urban Journalism Institute to foster the thorough dissemination of information on sustainable urban development.

Our world is facing unprecedented circumstances, and we have reached a critical point in understanding that cities can be the source of solutions to many of the world's challenges, particularly in the context of the global development agendas and frameworks. However, in order for cities to achieve this potential, clear communication and attention needs to be focused on the decisions taken by regionals and local governments and their long-term impacts.

The *Municipal Times* is an innovative platform that aims to promote a deep, independent, and transversal understanding of the complex and rarely analyzed urban dynamics. Its first stage is providing coverage of key messages emerging from the 2022 World Summit. Other events will follow this pilot, building a legacy of resources drawn from well-documented urban events and meetings that leverage knowledge and action-oriented solutions.

At this critical juncture in human history, the gathering in Daejeon is a landmark moment for the municipal movement, which will culminate in the approval of the Pact for the Future as the key outcome document.

We hope that the *Municipal Times* will give voice to the “Power of We” that reverberates through the Summit, and that it might inspire urban decision-makers around the world.

We would like to thank our contributors and invite you to join us in preparing upcoming issues.

Sincerely,

Ana B. Moreno  
President of OnCities2030

Emilia Saiz  
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The *Municipal Times* is a publication of the Urban Journalism Institute, an initiative of OnCities2030. For more information on the *Municipal Times*, contact the OnCities2030 team at [municipaltimes@oncities.org](mailto:municipaltimes@oncities.org)

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## THE WORLD SUMMIT OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEADERS AND WORLD CONGRESS KICKS OFF IN DAEJEON

The Seventh Session of the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders and World Congress will officially start on 12 October in Daejeon, Republic of Korea. The World Summit is organized every three years by the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) – the global network of cities and local, regional, and metropolitan governments and their associations that aims to represent, defend, and amplify the voices of local and regional governments to leave no one behind and no place behind. The Summit is the largest gathering of mayors, presidents of associations, local elected officers, and practitioners from around the world.

The World Summit builds on the century-old traditions of the municipal movement by providing a voice to cities and local governments and advocating addressing global issues locally and promoting the role of cities, which are at the forefront of many rising challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing disasters, as well as humanitarian crises.

This is the first time since the start of COVID-19 pandemic that the World Summit will take place, and for the first time in its history it will be held using a hybrid format. The COVID-19 pandemic and recent geopolitical crises have further exposed some of the challenges our world faces today – for example, the need to act in a coordinated way on a global scale, especially when considering the enormous economic, social, and environmental impact of different events. Indeed, the events of the past three years threaten to reverse the progress made toward the achievements of the United Nations 2030 Agenda and to even see the state of global sustainable development slide back decades. Failing future generations is not an option; for this reason, the municipal movement will gather local governments, leaders, and international partners and actors in Daejeon under the motto “Local and Regional Governments Breaking through as One”.

The breakthrough will culminate in the main outcome document of the World Congress – the Pact for the Future of Humanity (henceforth the “Pact for the Future”). The Pact for the Future will also define UCLG’s Strategic Priorities for the years 2022 through 2028, and will be structured around three axes: people, planet, and government. The process to develop the Pact for the Future will consist of deliberations, debates, and consultations with stakeholders. The Pact will serve as the municipal movement’s roadmap for its contributions to the United Nations Summit of the Future, planned to take place in September 2024.

The axes – people, planet and government – will guide all the main themes of the debates. UCLG aims to transform the social contract between residents and local governments within the framework of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. It will achieve this with the support of strengthened relationships with international partners, civil society, and other stakeholders, integrating their feedback through the Town Hall process, and will receive inputs from the local leaders and UCLG members through the Policy Councils and Assembly track.

The World Summit will follow the model set by the 2019 World Congress in Durban and will include:

- The Statutory track, which covers the main meetings of the governing bodies of UCLG. This track aims to adopt policies and decisions that will shape the future of UCLG.
- The Local4Action track, which provides the space for all participants to innovate, co-create, and share inspiration. This track gathers UCLG members, partners, global institutions, and local actors to organize sessions reflecting on the main axes of the World Summit.
- The Town Hall track, which invites partners from civil society organizations and stakeholders to a dialogue where they are invited to raise their voices and contribute to the decision-making process through the policy papers that feed into the overall global policy processes.
- The Assembly track, where the local and regional governments guide the narratives and set territorial priorities. The UCLG Sections and regional groups contribute to the policy-making priorities and align them with the overall work of UCLG by adopting position papers that feed into the Pact for the Future and other outcome documents of the World Summit.

In addition, the 2022 edition of the World Congress will also include the Daejeon track to explore the Republic of Korea’s vision and inputs to the globally discussed topics.

The World Summit will be a defining opportunity for local and regional leaders, international organizations, and various stakeholders to demonstrate the importance of diversity and inclusion in achieving the global agendas and targets.





## A NEW PARTNERSHIP MODEL FOR CITIES AND CIVIL SOCIETY: THE 'TOWN HALL' PROCESS

Leading up to the 2019 United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) Congress World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders in Durban, the Town Hall was used as a key process used to place civil society partners in the driver's seat and enabling co-creation.

It has become evident that the role of civil society organizations and stakeholders is instrumental for the development of better, more prosperous cities. UCLG recognized the crucial importance of collaboration between local governments and various global partners, and created the Town Hall process to deepen and encourage these partnerships.

The Town Hall is an open space allowing for debates and discussions on the policy papers which touch on priority topics for all partners. The tagline #CitiesAreListening encapsulates the ambitious goal of city leaders to not only listen to partners' policy proposals, but also to engage and include all stakeholders in decision-making processes.

The 2022 edition of the Town Hall track at the Seventh Session of the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders and World Congress (World Summit) in Daejeon, Republic of Korea, aims to reinvigorate dialogue between local and regional governments with international civil society organizations and to strengthen collaboration. The process continues and builds on progress made in the Town Hall process in Durban through the three cross-cutting caucuses on youth, feminism, and accessibility. These cross-cutting issues are integrated throughout the 2022 Town Hall deliberations in an effort to ensure that no one and no place is left behind.

Among topics included in this year's discussion are culture and sustainable development, the future of tourism, access to public spaces, building healthy cities, and the increasing interlinkages between climate change and food systems. Core partners of the process – such as Global Platform for the Right to the City, the General Assembly of Partners, Cities Alliance and the Climate Heritage Network – bring forward new ways to think about timely topics such as the global commons, trust and government, caring systems, and climate and culture. These topics link to the foundational areas of the Pact for the Future (the outcome document of the 2022 Congress), to renew social contracts for people, for the planet, and for governments.

The Town Hall process culminates in the presentation of Policy Papers on the main topics, which will later be considered by local governments as action points. These recommendations align with the aim to transform UCLG's municipal movement and to include all stakeholders in the decision-making process and to showcase that cities are listening and stand ready to deliver on the Pact for the Future.

## UCLG CONGRESS WELCOMES ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TO HELP PARTICIPANTS GET THE MOST FROM SESSIONS

- A pilot project will be implemented using an artificial intelligence tool in the Pact for the Future sessions
- The tool incorporates a smart search by concepts and speakers, as well as knowledge maps

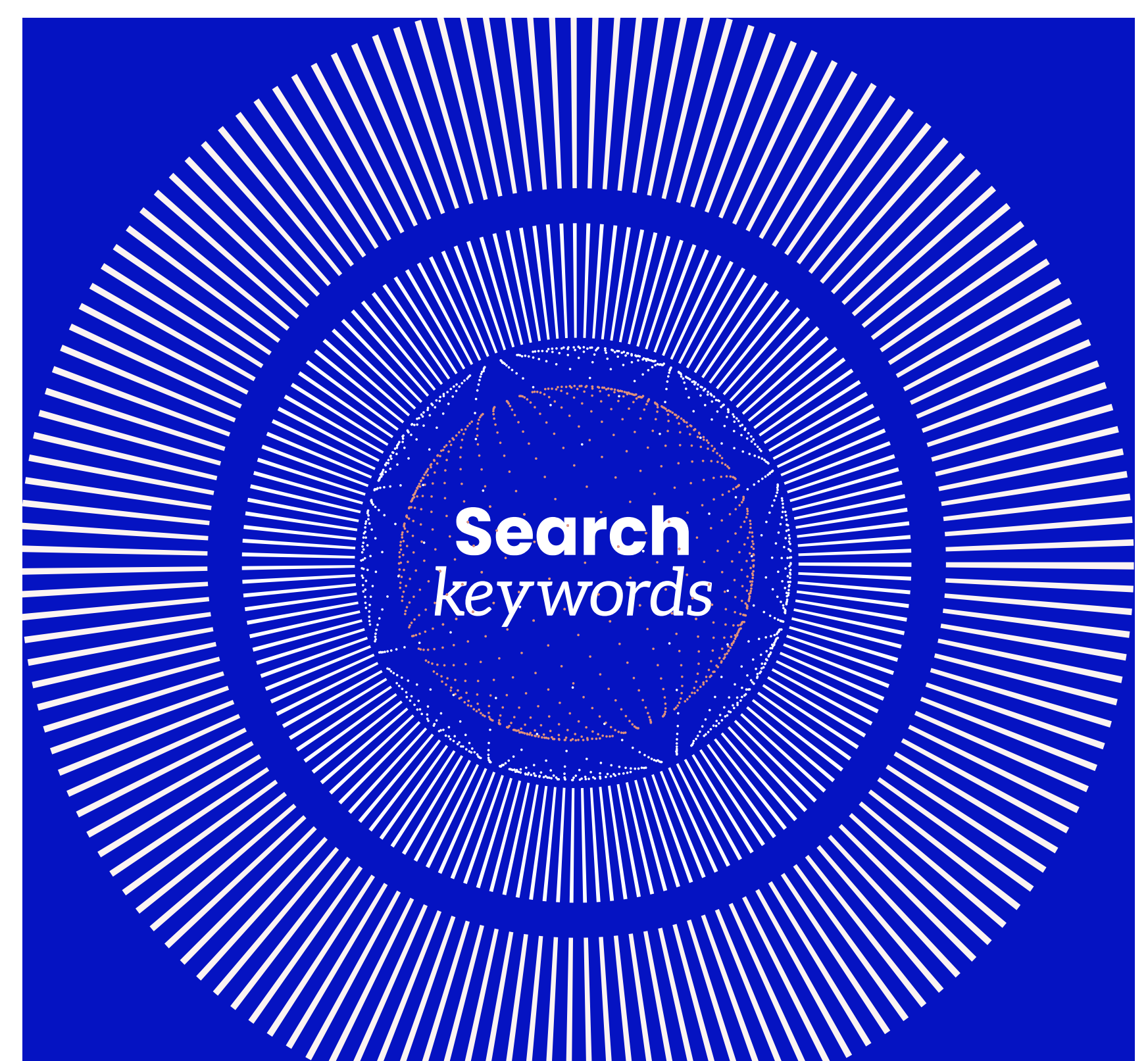
Three sessions of the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders will be analyzed using artificial intelligence for the first time. The pilot project, implemented by OnCities2030 in collaboration with UCLG, aims to facilitate access to information, as well as to identify the main narratives and those which may be omitted.

The pilot project will focus on the content of the Pact for the Future sessions to be held on 12, 13 and 14 October 2022. The artificial intelligence tool allows navigation using a smart search inside video transcripts to get to the exact second where a key word, term, or sentence is mentioned by any of the speakers. It also creates knowledge maps, allowing users to explore the main topics discussed during the session, as well as to view connections between contents and speakers, highlighting the thematic focuses of speakers' interventions.

The tool will be available from 13 October on the *Municipal Times* homepage, where it will be open to any user that would like to explore its functionalities.

This innovative project is possible thanks to the collaboration between OnCities2030, an organization specialized in disseminating knowledge and understanding of sustainable urban development, and the start-up Omnios, specialized in language processing using Winnow technology.

Any suggestions and comments on the tool are welcome and can be sent to [municipaltimes@oncities.org](mailto:municipaltimes@oncities.org).



# LOCAL AUTHORITIES JOIN PUSH TO ENGAGE MEDIA ON SUSTAINABLE CITIES

- The Media for Cities campaign aims to increase the coverage of sustainable urban development in the media.
- The campaign is led by The Urban Journalism Institute in collaboration with UCLG.
- Media for Cities will cover UCLG's 7th World Congress and Summit of Local and Regional Leaders in the *Municipal Times* online newspaper.

The Urban Journalism Institute and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) have launched the Media for Cities campaign at the UCLG 7th World Congress and Summit of Local and Regional Leaders, held in Daejeon (Republic of Korea) from 10 to 14 October 2022. Every day, Media for Cities will report on the key topics through the online newspaper the *Municipal Times*.

The Media for Cities campaign is led by the Urban Journalism Institute (UJI) in collaboration with UCLG. The campaign's goal is to bring urban journalism and city-related topics to newsrooms globally, through advocating within the media sector for research and elaboration of the most effective urban policies and strategies. It also seeks to promote and strengthen the presence of media in dialogues on sustainable urban development. In these ways, Media for Cities seeks to both inform and strengthen sustainable urban development strategies, moving the topic into the spotlight in networking meetings and public debates with influential media representatives, international organizations, and local authorities.

With the increasing and crucial role that cities play in achieving global sustainability, Media for Cities will raise awareness among urban dwellers and decision-makers on urban sustainability, contributing to the understanding of how cities are planned, built, or managed. The campaign will also develop partnership agreements with media all over the world to increase the coverage of sustainable urban development issues.

The Media for Cities campaign will start in 2022, aiming for a medium to long term impact within the context of the UN Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs (2020-2030), the ten-year anniversary of the Habitat III Conference (2026), as well as the review of the 2030 Agenda (2026-2030).



Media for Cities is a campaign aiming to promote advocacy initiatives with media representatives and international/local organizations to present the most interesting urban policies and strategies to enhance urban-journalism and city-related topics at the top of the newsrooms. It will compel networking meetings and public debates with influential media representatives, international organizations, and local authorities to strategize on how to support sustainable urban development. The Media for Cities campaign will also develop partnership agreements with media all over the world to increase the coverage of sustainable urban development.

At the launch of the campaign, Emilia Sáiz Carracedo, Secretary General of UCLG, stressed that the Media for Cities campaign will support local authorities to partner with influential media to increase attention on the work done at the local and regional levels. She noted that "Media is essential to promote the collective progress and wellbeing of our communities by reporting stories of interest that help people make well-informed decisions. In order for citizens to shape local policy, they need to be informed about what local and regional governments can do – what local and regional governments are there for."

Ana B. Moreno, President of OnCities 2030 and Director of the Urban Journalism Institute, encouraged media organizations to join the Media for Cities campaign and to promote urban journalism. She highlighted that "covering sustainable urban development contributes to accelerating the implementation of policies and projects which involve long-term improvement of citizen's lives. The concept of urban journalism goes beyond stories focusing on cities. It is about journalism specialized on covering the urban dynamics which define if a city is sustainable or not. Sustainable cities require well-informed citizens on sustainable urban development."

# DAEJEON SETS THE STAGE FOR GLOBAL IMPACT

This week, the city of Daejeon is hosting the 7th World Congress of Local and Regional Governments with the aim to provide a renewed vision and leadership in times of unprecedented global challenges.

Daejeon, with a population of 1.5 million residents, is the fifth-largest city of the Republic of Korea as well as a transit hub positioned at the crossroad of national rail routes and major expressways.

Located at the central region of the country and considered to be the cradle of the Republic of Korea's innovative science sector, Daejeon is strongly committed to promoting science, technology, and innovation to foster sustainable cities. Not surprisingly, it is known as the "City of Science and Technology," and hosts over 200 research institutions.

Through the theme of "A city where no one is left behind through science and technology," and in coordination with international partners, Daejeon will showcase best practices and urban solutions in 14 events. The events will cultivate discussions centered on four main themes: Science and Cities; People and Science; Environment and Science; and Administration and Science.

Science and Cities will explore the role of science and technology in the future of cities, and how to build global collaborations to promote urban sustainability; People and Science will focus on policies that can improve the quality of "individual life" at all life stages using science and technology; Environment and Science will examine ways in which science and technology can be developed and used to overcome various environmental risk factors; and Administration and Science will assess ways to expand the powers and strengthen the capacities of local governments to create sustainable and people-centered cities.

In addition to the official events, Daejeon will also offer visitors an extensive agenda of cultural events including city tours, a K-Pop concert, a World Citizen Festival and the Smart City Exhibition, among other experiences. On-site participants will also have the opportunity to visit the premises of several important Daejeon institutes which contribute Korea's position as a global IT powerhouse.

In total, more than 30 events will be organized by the city of Daejeon and by its partners to enable participants to engage in local activities and to learn about the historical and cultural aspects of the city.



# LOCAL4ACTION: INNOVATIVE ACTION- ORIENTED SOLUTIONS

More than 35 Local4Action events will be held by UCLG and its partners throughout the Summit, including intergovernmental organizations, civil society, and academia.

The opening day for the Local4Action track will be on 11 October, with discussions focusing on tools for accessible cities, including guidelines, training programmes, advocacy campaigns, and a model policy for rights-based public procurement of ICT in cities. The first day will also feature an event for raising awareness on the 11 Principles of Effective Governance in Africa, and on the concept of proximity in urban planning and policymaking.

On Wednesday 12 October, the Local4Action events will focus on human rights, feminism, health, and open government. The day will include a discussion on the role of local and regional governments as key actors in designing and implementing innovative public policies to raise awareness on gender-based violence, as well as to promote the protection, full recovery, and empowerment of female survivors. A global campaign on "Inform Women, Transform Lives" will be presented with examples and case studies on access to information can support women to transform their lives and their communities. The Feminist Municipal Movement will also debate the next steps in the framework of the Local4Action events.

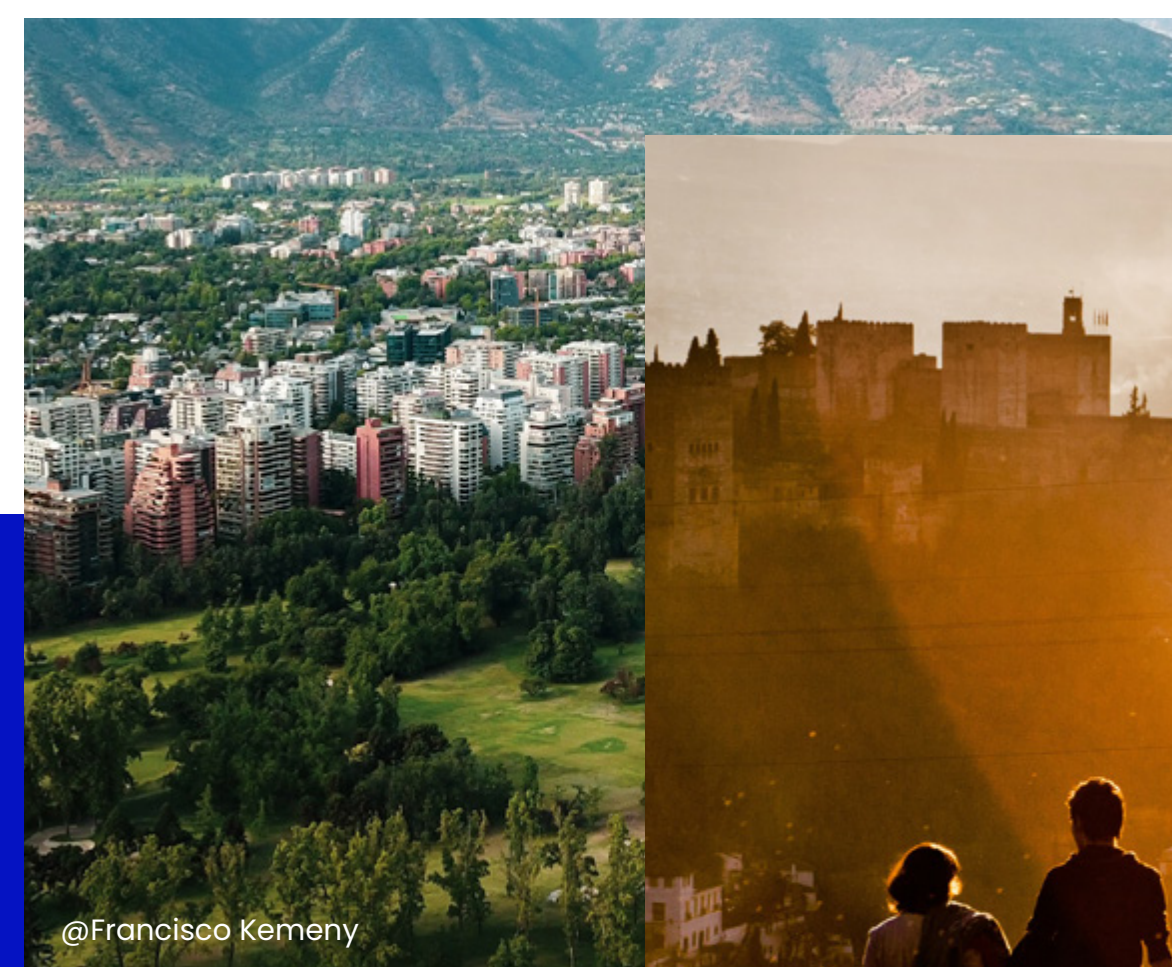
Coinciding with the celebration of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction on 13 October, the focus of the Local4Action will be on the climate

emergency, climate justice, resilience, and flood risk management. Other topics being discussed include: health and public spaces; public services; generating quality employment; SDG monitoring through Voluntary Local Reviews; children's perspective on metropolitan strategies; territorial trust for, from, and by intermediary cities; and cultural rights.

On 14 October, the final day of the World Summit, the Local4Action events will feature several events reflecting on the future and the next steps required. This will include areas such as the implementation of the New Urban Agenda; local democracy; local governments' associations; international solidarity; governance for peace; food systems; complex crisis recovery; financing sustainable urban development; social inclusion in the post-COVID-19 context; and the post-2030 scenario.

During the World Summit, participating organizations will introduce helpful tools and guidelines that support the local implementation of SDGs, such as:

- A model policy for ICT procurement (G3ict)
- The Accessibility GO! Guideline (World Blind Union)
- The Cities4All Training Program (World Enabled)
- The Digital Rights Governance Framework (CC4DR)
- A Flood Risk Management tool (Connective Cities)
- Financing Sustainable Urbanization recommendations (FMDV)



## WHAT'S ON TODAY

11 OCTOBER 2022

At 10 AM, the inaugural session of the Networking Hub will take place at DCC1. In the same space, at 10.30 AM, the Local4Action Hubs will be introduced, and at 1.30 PM, the Network of Locally Elected Women of Africa (REFELA) will celebrate 10 years of achievements and discuss their next steps.

The Feminism Caucus (10 AM), the Accessibility Caucus (12 PM) and the Youth Caucus (2 PM) will all take place in rooms 109-110 (DCC1). The Local4Action Track will also start with several events focused on **accessibility** (organized by World Blind Union, World Enabled, UN Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility and G3ict); effective **governance** in Africa (organized by African Local Governments Academy); and on the concept of **proximity** in urban planning and policymaking (organized by Global Proximity Observatory).

The main event of the day will be the celebration of the **launch of the Lampedusa Charter** at 4 PM in the Agora (DCC1).

## UCLG MEETS

From 10 to 14 October 2022, several UCLG statutory meetings will take place.

The 2022 World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders will convene the UCLG Financial Management Committee (11 October), the Committee on Statutory Affairs (12 October), the Executive Bureau (12 October), the General Assembly (13 October), and the World Council (14 October).

The meeting of the UCLG Executive Bureau on 12 October will be the last for the current mandate. On 13 October, the General Assembly will appoint the members of the UCLG World Council for 2022-2025. The new members of the World Council will then elect the members of the new Executive Bureau, as well as the President, the Treasurer, and the Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Gender Equality.