

MAYORS EMBRACE MIGRANT AND REFUGEE PROTECTION WORLDWIDE

United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) achieved a major milestone with the launch of the Lampedusa Charter during its 7th World Congress in Daejeon, Republic of Korea. The Charter addresses dignified human mobility and territorial solidarity, rethinking citizenship beyond administrative status and centering actions around dignity and solidarity. It also lays the foundation for a renewed governance framework that builds on territorial realities and establishes the “Right to the City” as a fundamental principle.

The Lampedusa process endorsed, renewed, and expanded commitments through two years of consultations with hundreds of participants. More than 90 direct contributions have shaped the resulting document. Over 300 representatives of cities and regions from around the world, 20 civil society and international organizations, and more than 30 networks were involved in the process, which was supported by the UCLG regional sections.

For local and regional governments, the subjects of migration and displacement are not just a matter of borders, but rather about the push and pull factors that lead people in search of opportunities. Beyond economic, demographic, and territorial imbalances that exacerbate trends such as workforce concentration and rapid urbanization, a variety of interrelated factors also contribute to human mobility. These include climate change, inequalities and other patterns of oppression, and conflict, all of which increasingly create harsh conditions facing migrants (both as a cause of their movement and as a reality in their place of settlement). By choice or by need, leaving one’s place of origin becomes particularly difficult for groups that are structurally discriminated against for reasons such as gender, age, race, religion, sexual identity and orientation, and many others.

The Lampedusa Charter was inspired by Totò Martello, former Mayor of Lampedusa, Italy with the support of Mohamed Wajdi, Vice Mayor of Sfax, Tunisia. At the launch, Martello stressed that “the Lampedusa Charter is a point of no return in the long path to building a better society. If a person is at sea and needs help, they must be rescued regardless of the why, the color of their skin or their status.”

The Charter includes a call to the international community to, among other things, eradicate the criminalization of migration; promote alternatives to detention; enhance care, particularly for children and youth; modify legal frameworks to increase pathways for regular migration; expand protection frameworks and instruments; and implement universal access to health coverage for all, regardless of migration status.

An important request of the Charter is to establish global alliances to oppose the creation of enclave settlements or camps, working towards ensuring that all migrant, refugee, and displaced populations have a right to move to the cities and intermediary cities that offer them dignified livelihoods. The Charter also appeals for the restoration of dignity and remembrance to those who have suffered violence and died in their quest for safety and opportunities.

The Charter recognizes and builds upon previous UCLG efforts and declarations advocating for an understanding of human mobility as a natural, legitimate phenomenon; a source of innovation; and a key driver of urbanization.



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ACCESSIBILITY IN CITIES: HIGHLIGHTING VOICES FROM CIVIL SOCIETY

Uneven steps, a lack of elevators, audio-visual overwhelm: navigating the city as a person with disabilities can be challenging. The UN Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG11) – which calls for more inclusive, safer, and more sustainable cities -- reflects these issues by advocating that cities to be designed in a way that is disability-inclusive and age-friendly. Actions can include providing access to safe, affordable, accessible, and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, and paying special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations.

On Wednesday, October 12th, the Local4Action track at UCLG's World Congress in Daejeon brings together the voices of civil society to share recommendations and experiences. A **human rights-based approach to equity and the inclusion of persons** with disabilities and older persons is important to center human experiences and ensure that actionable information and clear recommendations are delivered.

One of the tools presented at the Congress is the resource **"Accessibility GO! A Guide to Action"** created by the World Blind Union and CBM Global Disability. According to the authors, "this unique and practical resource guides any type of organization on how to integrate accessibility into standard practice." The Guide provides self-assessment tools for municipal governments to evaluate their current accessibility standards and to inform future actions.

The Global Initiative for Inclusive ICTs presents another tool to make cities more accessible: a **model policy to ensure a rights-based public procurement of ICTs**. Since public procurement can serve as a vehicle for the localization of human rights, local and regional governments can use their purchasing power to advance the rights and the digital inclusion of persons with disabilities and older persons. The model policy is currently being piloted by local governments across the globe.

Creating accessible cities also lays the groundwork for the next generations of leadership. The World Health Organization's "Age-friendly world" project with its **Global Network for Age-friendly Cities and Communities** is another valuable resource for cities to engage all ages. Input from children and adolescents with disabilities are key, particularly in education systems, where bullying can disproportionately impact children with disabilities. The campaign **"Good treatment in schools, from children and adolescents with disabilities to their classmates"** is concerned with creating positive school experiences for students with disabilities.

The **Accessibility Caucus – Stocktaking & ways forward: Towards more disability-inclusive and age-friendly cities** brought together civil society representatives to share their thoughts and recommendations on how best to embed a rights-based approach to the inclusion and equity of persons with disabilities and older persons in the decision-making process. The real-life experiences and stories underscored the need for a more inclusive social contract to be drafted – one which will address current challenges using a rights-based approach focused on leaving no one and no place behind.

The guiding principle of **"Leave No-one Behind"** is also being implemented at the UCLG Congress itself. Accessible spaces, sign language and translation, geographically diverse international panelists including women, youth, older persons, and persons with disabilities are examples of how UCLG is striving to promote and improve accessibility and inclusion.



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BE PART OF THE PACT FOR THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY!

From 12 to 14 October, a daily plenary session will take place at the UCLG 7th World Congress to foster dialogue between representatives of local and regional governments and other actors, including national and international representatives and partners, on the Pact for the Future of Humanity, the outcome document of the Congress.

The first session on the Pact for the Future of Humanity will focus on “People: Equality and Care,” the second on “Planet: Transforming our Relationship with our Ecosystems,” and the last on “Governance: Governing Local & Global Realities as One.”

Each three-day sessions will be structured with an initial political introduction that will include a long-term vision to set the scene with the hopes, aspirations, and calls for the years to come; this will be followed by a consultation process to define that political vision.

The final pledge that participants will be invited to make for the “Future of People, Planet and Government” will set the groundwork for future advocacy priorities of the Local and Regional Governments constituency and its partners.

The unprecedented challenges the world is facing today require political commitments to shift the direction and move toward a better future. The role of the municipal movement is becoming increasingly crucial in today’s emerging crises, as local and regional governments are typically those on the front lines of these challenges.

In this context and within the framework of the SDGs, the Pact for the Future of Humanity will provide strategic guidance toward a new social contract to understand peace, equality, and justice as the indispensable pillars of any sustainable, thriving society. It reorients policy to place the three dimensions of people, planet and government at the center of local and regional action-oriented initiatives.

These three dimensions -- people, planet, and government -- have been identified through discussions and deliberations raised among UCLG leadership and different consultation mechanisms, including through work with the UN Common Agenda and through the #CitiesAreListening process. The dimensions have driven the exploration of the principles and policies which have been debated, advocated, researched, and learned in the run up to the Daejeon Congress, and will be reflected in the Pact for the Future of Humanity.

The Pact aims to achieve an agreement anchored in the “Power of We,” the collective strength and value of the municipal movement, to contribute to the Common Agenda of the UN Secretary General - to develop a pact for the future, localize the universal agendas, and develop a society of care that achieves transformation by guaranteeing the provision of public services. The “Power of We” is a concept that is fundamental to UCLG and its principles, and is also a way to communicate the core goals of centralizing care for residents’ wellbeing in local and regional governments’ priorities.

UCLG members and the organized constituency of Local and Regional Governments will use the Pact for the Future of Humanity to define strategic priorities until 2028, ensuring that not only the Pact but also the actions of the constituency align with and speak to the UN Summit of the Future, the SDG Summit, as well as the High-Level Political Forum when the progress on the achievement of the SDG 11 is being reviewed.



AN INTERGENERATIONAL SOCIAL CONTRACT: YOUTH IN URBAN PROCESSES

The Youth Caucus took place on 11 October 2022 as part of the Town Hall track sessions, which foster dialogue between leaders of local and regional authorities and civil society organizations and other stakeholders.

Youth are the main constituents of the future; they will be the ones to experience the effects of climate change and the effects of challenges the world is unable to solve today. Today, this means that young people should have a seat at all tables and in all political processes where decisions that directly impact them take place.

Unfortunately, the reality is that youth are among the groups whose voices are often least considered and valued by politicians. The United Cities and Local Governments' (UCLG) Youth Caucus has taken the lead in breaking this barrier, and through the *Policy Paper "Time for an Intergenerational Social Contract: The Inclusion of the Youth in Urban Processes,"* it aims to contribute to the outcome of the UCLG World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders. Moreover, the Policy Paper, which is the foundation of the session's discussion, sets an ambitious goal of transforming the decision-making processes at the local and regional level. It lays out the key issues that young people face at the urban level around the world and offers policy recommendations and a joint action agenda to drive the change needed. The discussion is organized around the main themes of the Town Hall – trust and governance, common goods, caring systems, and climate and culture.

One of the key challenges identified lies in the complex relationship between youth and the government. There are four main contributors to this challenge: 1) the inefficiencies of public administration and insufficient funding; 2) the exclusion of youth from the decision-making process; 3) the lack of political and civic education -- which lead to difficulties in understanding the administrative, legal, and political processes and as a result creates barriers in civic engagement; and 4) lack of trust in governance and corruption.

The youth are particularly affected by the challenges in accessing adequate public health systems, water and sanitation, housing, and public transportation. The shortage of private subsidies to facilitate acquisition of transportation means for young people also contributes to the ability of young people to thrive and engage in cities. Unequal access to education is another major barrier that many young people face, which dovetails into another core challenge for youth around the world– difficulty in finding quality, dignified job opportunities. Lastly, many young migrants face discrimination, xenophobia, and exclusion from host city culture. Each of these issues requires local governments to respond and facilitate improvements to support youth and strengthen trust, engagement, and future prospects.

While solutions to the threats posed by climate change and environmental degradation depend on the policy decisions of the national government, local



and regional government can already collectively contribute by lowering emissions, adopting policies for climate change adaptation, and addressing proper waste management.

Among the policy recommendations that the Youth Caucus has proposed are, for example, the inclusion of young people in policy development or budgeting. They advocate for young people receiving political and civic education to facilitate their effective engagement in urban civic life; as well as for adequate access to public health, water, and sanitation. Lastly, the session underscored the importance of engaging youth from underserved communities and municipalities to ensure the "leave no one behind" principle is truly at the core of key decisions.

As a way forward, the Youth Caucus has proposed a dialogue between youth and local governments across the world to discuss and engage in feedback on the implementation of the policy proposals.

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF THE NETWORK OF LOCALLY ELECTED WOMEN OF AFRICA



The Network of Locally Elected Women of Africa (REFELA), one of the largest women's representative bodies in the world, is celebrating its 10th anniversary at the the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders in Daejeon.

During the celebratory moment, the Mayor of the City of Banjul, The Gambia, and President of REFELA, Rohey Malick Lowe, has expressed her gratitude to those who have supported, guided, and mentored REFELA leaders over the past 10 years, enabling it to grow into the powerful network it is today.

She also called for continued efforts to promote women to political leadership positions, noting that this is one of the most effective ways to influence the achievement of gender equality in Africa. For this purpose, REFELA works to promote the implementation of the Charter of Local Governments for Gender Equality in Africa, which aims to increase the participation of women in decision-making processes in the various political bodies.

Other speakers joined the session to celebrate the anniversary and to encourage the Network to continue its work. Jean Pierre Mbassi, Secretary General of UCLG Africa, stressed that “women are game changers” and Taneen Rudyk, President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), reminded event attendees that “feminism is about many things; most importantly, it is about reshaping power towards more equitable and just societies.”

REFELA was founded in 2011 at the first Forum of Locally Elected Women of Africa, held in Tangier in the Kingdom of Morocco. REFELA brings together women mayors and local elected representatives at the continental level, and consolidates their voices for the promotion of gender-responsive local governance. Their vision is building gender parity, inclusivity, and gender-sensitivity at the local level in Africa. The Network will continue to further its goal of cultivating a continent where gender equity prevails and where communities mobilize to protect vulnerable children and to ensure territorial inclusiveness.

WHAT'S ON TODAY

12 OCTOBER 2022

At 9:30 AM, the **official opening** of the World Congress will take place in DCC2, Exhibition Hall 1+2.

The Town Hall process will continue at 11:00 AM, with a session focused on “Caring Systems” in DCC1, Agora. At the same time, sessions of the Networking Hub and Local4Action will begin, focusing on human rights, feminism, open governance and health. In parallel, the Research Forum will create space to develop partnerships between academia, civil society, and local and regional governments.

In the afternoon, the Congress will continue with the meeting of the Executive Bureau at 2:30 PM, followed by the plenary session of **Local and Regional Governments Breaking through as one** session at 4:30 PM.

As the final activity of the day, at 5:30 PM the first session of the Pact for the Future of Humanity will begin in DCC1, the Grand Ballroom. Online participants will be able to follow this session, as it will be run following a hybrid format.

