

SUMMIT OPENS WITH A STRONG CALL TO EMPOWER LOCAL MULTILATERALISM



- **President Yoon expressed his support for the positioning of local governments as key players on the international stage**
- **Former United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, stressed the need for both local and global solutions to address current challenges**

The President of the Republic of Korea, Yoon Suk-yeol, officially inaugurated the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders and the 7th UCLG World Congress at the Daejeon Convention Center.

During the ceremony, Yoon committed to support the development of local governments and to increase their role as key players at the global level. He also referred to the need for more solidarity between nations and local governments in the context of both

the pandemic and the climate emergency. He noted that “as we went through the COVID-19 crisis, we were able to realize once again how much of an important role local governments play.”

Referring to the context in the Republic of Korea, Yoon said that he was determined to back local governments because “local competitiveness equals national competitiveness,” and enable national growth. “I believe the key to a local governments’ era lies in local governments discovering their growth engines on their own, with sufficient authority and responsibility, and the central government actively supporting this,” he added.

Former United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, also participated in the Summit’s Opening Ceremony. He stressed the importance of Summit’s theme,

Breaking Through as One, “to elevate partnerships and the municipal movement, as well as its contribution to the key global agendas”. During his mandate as the head of the United Nations, Ban was a defender of the role of local and regional governments in sustainable development, and during his tenure the adoption of SDG11 and the New Urban Agenda were milestones for the municipal movement. He reiterated his 2012 statement that “the battle of sustainability will be won or lost in cities,” when stressing that “local is global and global is local” and signaled municipal cooperation as key for a transformative future.

Emilia Saiz, UCLG Secretary General, called for regional and local authorities to push for their position at the multilateral level and to bring a new social contract to the table through the Pact for the Future of Humanity (to be adopted on the final day of the Daejeon World Summit). She stressed that UCLG is “the home of local multilateralism and in this UCLG Congress, we want you to feel that you are more than the sum of all of us, because our power lies in our capacity to act together.”

The UCLG Governing President and Mayor of The Hague, Jan van Zanen, referred to the main motto of the Summit when highlighting that “local and regional governments have shown their efforts to break through as one, guaranteeing the provision of public services and rights that are inclusive, supportive, equal, and fair. Our ambitions are global, and the municipal movement is up to the challenge.”

The Mayor of Daejeon, Lee Jang Woo, welcome and thanked all visitors to Daejeon and added his commitment to “breaking through as one.” “We will seek ways to make the global village more prosperous and advance sustainable development,” he said.

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

UCLG URGES CITIES TO IMPLEMENT PACT FOR THE FUTURE: STRIVING FOR EQUALITY AND CARE

Two years ago, when the UCLG World Council was hosted by the city of Guangzhou, China, the conversation took place during the COVID-19 pandemic when local and regional governments re-prioritized their actions and made new work plans to support communities. At the time, the Council addressed the need to place public service delivery and the commons at the core of efforts in the post-COVID era; the need to transform the relationship between people and natural ecosystems; how to ensure that our patterns of consumption and production are in line with the wellbeing of our populations; and the importance of including local and regional governments in the conversations on recovery. All of those points are presented as the **Pact for the Future of Humanity**, which is being further discussed in Daejeon.

The three key elements of the **Pact for the Future of Humanity** – people, planet, and government – reflect UCLG’s mandate. Each of these elements reflect the views of mayors and political representatives the UCLG, as well as partners from civil society, academia, and other stakeholders who brought their views and commitments into the development of the Pact.

The Pact commitments aim to touch on human and planetary impacts, powered by solidarity, equality, culture, and accountable institutions that leave no one and no place behind. As **Núria Marín I Martínez**, Mayor of L’Hospitalet de Llobregat, Spain, highlighted, a global pandemic has simultaneously reinforced both the interdependence and the vast separation that exists within and between societies, resulting in the rampant growth of inequalities. She stated that to truly address inequalities, we must empower people and focus on education, retraining, and ensuring marginalized communities are not left behind. “It is about guaranteeing decent work and fair pay for all, and ensuring that women and girls are fully empowered to achieve their full potential as citizens and foster a feminist way of going about politics,” she concluded.

Discussion continued with an intervention by **Anita Bathia**, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, who said that the world is expecting local actions to be looked at through feminine lenses. **Carolina Cosse**, Mayor of Montevideo, Uruguay stressed that local and regional governments

should put health at the top of the agenda. “Humanism needs to be in the center and leads policies,” she added. From World Water Council, **Loic Fauchon** called upon local and regional governments to address access to drinkable water for people, similarly **Justin Koonin** of UHC2030 stressed the importance of access to basic urban services including health. **Elana Wong** from the UCLG Youth Caucus supported previous statements by calling for leaders to provide access to basic urban services, in particular health care and education, for youth in their cities and regions. **María Soledad Cisternas Réyes**, representing the Accessibility Caucus mentioned that we are in the age of local governance and that the Pact of UCLG will lead local and regional governments

to implement policies in favor of those marginalized communities.

The Pact for the Future of Humanity focuses on how cities and regions care for people by bringing a new, feminist way of politics based on local service provision. These governments are moving forward to transform the social contract by developing caring societies based on the provision of local services. A new feminist approach to politics, operating through empathy and solidarity, fosters social justice and equality as the indispensable building blocks of a just, sustainable and thriving society.



Further, during the session Mayor **Rohney Lowe** of Banjul, The Gambia, stressed the importance of implementing the Pact with this feminist approach, noting that we have to be “brave and bold” to achieve this together. The Mayor of Grigny, France, **Philippe Rio** expressed agreement and support for the vision of feminist municipalism. **Mehmed Duman**, who chairs UCLG-MEWA reminded the audience about refugees in his and other regions, and called for the adoption and implementation of the Pact for the benefit for all vulnerable communities in society.

The UCLG invited partners to collectively support joint aspirations, and to engage with a concrete pledge for the to guide and prioritize actions in these critical times.



UCLG PRESIDENCY PLEDGE ON THE PACT FOR THE FUTURE FOR HUMANITY

On behalf of the UCLG Presidency, **Li Mingyuan**, Mayor of Xian, delivered a pledge during the Pact for the Future plenary session:

“We, local and regional government leaders, Pledge is to address the roots of inequality placing gender equality, protecting the urban poor, political participation, access to services, dignity, decent work and public spaces at the heart of our strategy. We also pledge to actively promote accessibility as a precondition to inclusion and universal housing, paying particular attention to the needs of self-constructed settlements by replacing forced evictions with policies that promote inclusion and participation. UCLG Presidency will endeavour for this Pledge to directly answer on the international development agendas beyond 2030, providing the contribution of UCLG to the UN Summit of the Future and SDG Summit, putting people and equality at the center.”

LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS BREAKING THROUGH AS ONE

Enthusiasm was in the air on Wednesday afternoon in Daejeon. “Local and regional governments: Breaking through as one” was the topic of the session celebrating a reunion after the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic.

The UCLG Governing President and Mayor of The Hague, Netherlands, Jan van Zanen, opened the first plenary session of the Congress by stressing that “the UCLG World Summit and Congress build on the century old origins of the organization, as a movement driven by peace, solidarity and city diplomacy.” He added that “together, we can gather the political will, resolved in a conviction to transform our systems” and that “the international municipal movement has come to age and has come of age and we have a role to play in development of policies in the future.”

Thembisile Nkadameng, Deputy Minister of Cooperation, Governance and Traditional Affairs of the Government of South Africa, said that “our municipalities require

us to enhance the quality of the lives of people by routing governments among the communities and spearheading the processes of universalizing the access to basic services for us to realize the SDGs.”

International Organization for Migration Director General Antonio Vitorino addressed local and regional government representatives by highlighting the need for cities to expand service delivery and job opportunities into migrant communities. He stressed that the COVID-19 pandemic exposed inequalities and discrimination of migrant communities, especially towards women and girl migrants, and he concluded that we must jointly deliver a more equitable future for all residents.

“Mayors are important intermediaries for the SDGs. They are also the members of government closest to the citizens. We regularly invite Lisbon citizens into the town hall to co-create policies and urban change,” explained Carlos Moedas, Mayor of Lisbon. The Mayor also raised issues on digital transformation impacting

the relationship between citizens and their city leaders. He concluded that, “if we are able to change the world by small steps, those small steps are the ones that mayors can put forward.” Similar initiatives and messages came from the Mayor of San José, Costa Rica, Johnny Araya Monge, and representatives from other cities and municipalities all over the world including in China, where cities regularly collaborate with and support UCLG initiatives, as highlighted by Jiangjiang, Vice President of the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. Mayor eThekweni Mxolisi Kaunda of Durban, South Africa stressed that cities were placed in situations where they needed to do more for people during the pandemic but had lower revenue to work with. In order to prepare for similar challenges in the future, he noted that “cities needed to review their plans and partnerships.”

GOLD VI REPORT: A FUNDAMENTAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE URBAN AND TERRITORIAL EQUALITY

The [GOLD VI Report: Pathways to Urban and Territorial Equality](#) was launched by UCLG Co-President and Mayor of San José, Johnny Araya, during the plenary session on “Local and Regional Governments Breaking Through as One” on 12 October 2022.

The GOLD VI Report is an essential contribution to the Pact for the Future of Humanity, the expected outcome document of the Daejeon’s World Summit. It was built following the three pillars of the Pact – people, planet, and government – and offers local and regional governments “pathways” to mobilize a common vision for addressing inequalities through local transformation strategies.

The Report proposes that local authorities, together with civil society, can champion equality and address local manifestations of growing inequalities through addressing six interconnected pathways: Commoning, Caring, Connecting, Renaturing, Prospering, and Democratizing.

Each of its chapters offers a diversity of themes related to informality, housing, land, basic services, urban health, migration, sustainable transport, decent livelihoods, resilience, and energy transition, among others, all grounded in a framework of political participation and accountability.

The elaboration of the Report has involved a three-year collective co-creation process of over a hundred local and regional governments, civil society organizations, and experts from around the world. As such, the GOLD facilitate a rich process, supporting and strengthening multi-stakeholder dialogues and ensuring the participation and involvement of UCLG members. The lead team has been the UCLG Research area, the Bartlett Development Planning Unit of the University College London, and the International Institute for Environment and Development.

A Networking Hub session to discuss the GOLD VI Report is scheduled for 14 October 2022 from 10 AM to 11.30 AM.



A PROPOSAL FOR A PARTICIPATORY APPROACH TO CARING SYSTEMS: ACCESSIBLE AND INCLUSIVE SOCIAL CARE

“Caring systems” are the core of the Pact for the Future of Humanity. On 12 October 2022, a Town Hall was held bringing together representatives of civil society and local and regional elected officials to discuss and reflect on policy recommendations to advance the implementation of caring systems.

The basis for the discussion was a policy paper on caring systems, prepared by several civil society organizations. Caring systems are defined as systems that support individuals through social and physical infrastructures, which are underpinned by public funding, regulation, and policies aimed at delivering equitable, quality care services for everyone everywhere. This is done regardless of the social and financial status of individuals, is done throughout their lives, and is done in the common interest (i.e. without extracting profit from such services) so that all can live a meaningful and dignified life. The presenters proposed adopting a holistic approach to caring that focuses on granting **general access to social care services for all**.

The session highlighted three key elements identified by this more comprehensive approach. First, caring systems need to be *rights-based* in the sense that they should be understood from a human-rights based model, which empowers everyone as care rights-holders. Second, caring systems need to be *gender transformative* and *equitable*. While most of the care work – both paid and unpaid – is disproportionately carried out by women, caring systems must transform this paradigm and shape a new social organization around equitable sharing of care responsibilities between genders, between households and the state, and between local and central governments. Last, care is more than the provision of health, social and welfare services; it ties together the social fabric of our communities around the world, from the family level to the national and international levels.

This topic is much wider than commonly understood, as it also includes working on a new, more effective social contract, which would see cities and local communities as ecosystems for care and inclusion. Local governments play the key role in this system, as they are the closest to the residents and they will directly implement and design the services and the infrastructure required. This integrated perspective on caring is already being carried out by some municipalities, for example in Iztapalapa borough in Mexico City. However, it is important to involve all levels of government to ensure comprehensive policy frameworks are in place across scales. For this reason, the policy paper covers a wider understanding of caring systems and integrates questions related to the environment, sustainable development, gender, poverty, well-being, security, informality, participation, and equitable access to housing and basic services.

To ensure the implementation of a holistic approach to caring systems, the concept needs to be supported and protected by public institutions, receive adequate funding, and be duly regulated to ensure equitable access. The session therefore explored a number of recommendations, or focus areas, to be implemented for caring systems to function effectively. These include: providing universal access to essential services and infrastructure for all; ensuring that basic services are publicly funded, delivered, and regulated by public institutions with a “public good” approach; fostering development from the bottom-up; and promoting residents’ access to affordable and accessible technology and reliable information.

IMPLEMENTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CITY

Human rights are at the center of the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda, which seeks to realize the human rights of all and leave no one behind. Each of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) includes human rights from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In the Local4Action track at UCLG’s World Congress in Daejeon, this topic takes center stage on Thursday, 13 October.

The UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights aims to strengthen local and regional governments’ role in the promotion of fundamental rights. To this end, the session on “Building the Future of the Human Rights Cities’ Movement” will lay the groundwork for new cooperation and joint actions. Similarly, the session on “10, 100, 1000 Human Rights Cities and Territories by 2030” will promote the committee’s **Campaign on Human Rights Cities**. During this event, the first list of cities joining the global Campaign will be presented. Local governments are invited to strengthen their political commitment by joining the campaign.

A people-centered approach to sustainable urban development also focuses on the **governance of human rights and digital technologies**. The Cities Coalition for Digital Rights (CC4DR) is working on a Digital Rights Governance Framework project, together with UN-Habitat, Eurocities, UCLG, and the Open Society Foundations. The goal is to create common ground on city-level governance of human rights in today’s digital environment. Within this framework, the authors also seek to provide practical support for cities to put in place the mechanisms necessary for making digital rights a reality.

In the Daejeon Track, new technology and human rights are an important topic as well. New technologies such as facial recognition, artificial intelligence, and the metaverse are already present in our everyday lives. However, some new advancements can threaten some human rights such as the right to dignity, which includes a right to privacy. Local governments are key for protecting **human rights in the field of public administration**.

The global movement for **Universal Health Coverage in 2030** also features in rights discussions at the Summit. Local and regional governments deliver a range of services that are key to keeping people safe and well, playing an important role in the achievement of universal health coverage and ensuring healthy cities and territories. People-centered health systems offer cities a way to protect communities and enhance urban health.

Additionally, human rights featured in the session by Open Government Partnerships on Wednesday 12 October. There, a dialogue on the **promotion of open government, transparency, and accountability** enabled key actors to develop joint strategies for a strong open government with safe and accessible technologies. Key future policy milestones for open government efforts are: the UN SDG Summit and the review of SDG 11, both in 2023, and the UN Summit for the Future in 2024.



FEMINISM: CREATING CITIES THAT WORK FOR WOMEN

"We live in the city of men. Our public spaces are not designed for female bodies. There is little consideration for women as mothers, workers, or carers. The urban streets often are a place of threats rather than community. Gentrification has made the everyday lives of women even more difficult. What would a metropolis for working women look like?"

This is the central question of urban geographer Leslie Kern's 2020 book *Feminist City*. These challenges that women face in cities are under discussion at UCLG's World Congress. UCLG Women has led a strong **Feminist Municipal Movement** which is prominent at the Congress. In events such as the Feminism Caucus on Tuesday 11 October and Thursday 13 October, and the event "Putting Care and the Sustainability of Life at the Center of Policy and Action," the movement discusses building the constituency's political aims, in addition to supporting women's leadership and mechanisms for ensuring gender equality.

The Feminist Municipal Movement underscores the importance of examining all local and regional government issues through a gender equality lens. After all, feminism is about ensuring that all genders have equal rights and opportunities, making it a crucial part of the agenda.

"Equality is not just a question of women, it is a question of rights, of society. It is women who organize, mobilize and vote, but it is rarely women who win."

Fatimatou Abdel Malick, Mayor of Tervragh-Zeina

In policy and action for sustainable cities, women often take a leading role. Inspiring mayors such as Anne Hidalgo (Paris), Ada Colau (Barcelona), or Claudia López (Bogotá) prove that female-led cities are particularly successful in transitioning towards sustainability. At the UCLG World Congress, a documentary that will be shown on Friday 14 October in DCC1 showcases the caring system in Bogotá, to inspire people-centered policies guided by the values of the Feminist Municipal Movement. Each day, a podcast titled "Feminist Cities & Territories" will be available to all participants in the DCC1 Networking Hub.

On Wednesday, events such as "Inform Women, Transform Lives: Cities Advancing Gender Equity and Empowerment through Information" by the Carter Center advance approaches to the equitable delivery of public services. Inspiring examples demonstrate how a greater political representation is possible and how local governments can reach women with meaningful information.

In addition, the International Observatory on Violence Against Women - together with Seine-Saint-Denis and the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy, and Human Rights - addressed violence against women in their event. Often, this topic is addressed only at the national and civil society levels. But local and regional governments are key actors when it comes to implementing innovative public policies to ensure female victims' protection, full recovery, and empowerment.

Cities that work for everyone are equitable, safe, and sustainable. This principle allows cities to develop caring societies; communities that care for and protect each other, and inclusive and well-designed services for residents such as mobility and transport. They also address the future of work and caregiving and have a clear plan on how to implement gender equality, social justice, and inclusion.



FEMINIST CITIES AND TERRITORIES: A UCLG PODCAST

Feminist Cities and Territories is the UCLG podcast on feminist leadership, seen from a local perspective. In it, leading women from around the world bring listeners a series of conversations reflecting on what it means to feminize politics, with a focus on caring for people and communities.

Ada Colau, Rohey Malick, Carola Gunnarsson, and Gissela Chalá are a few of the voices featured in this podcast that open up new spaces in which to discuss and defend social justice and equality.

WHAT'S ON TODAY

13 OCTOBER 2022

Today's sessions will start with the Assembly of the Middle East and West Africa (MEWA) regional UCLG section at 8:30 AM in DCC1 and 301. Once this session concludes, at 10:00 AM, the Assembly of the regional section of Africa will take place in the same room.

The *Assembly Beyond the Metropolis: Megacities, Regions and Territories* will take place at 12:00 PM.

The Town Hall process will continue with three sessions on Feminism (9:00 AM), Culture and Climate (10:00 AM) and Global Commons (12:00 PM).

The Local4Action events and the Networking Hub sessions will start at 10:00 AM.

At 1:30 PM, the documentary *From Risk to Resilience: The case of Palu* will be presented at the Networking Hub in DCC1.

At 2:30 PM, the **General Assembly** of UCLG will begin, during which the members of the World Council for 2022 - 2025 will be appointed.

As the final activity of the day, at 5:30 PM the second 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.