

## PLEDGING TO REVERSE THE CLIMATE CRISIS: THE PACT FOR THE FUTURE

Caring for the planet is only possible by transforming the way we organize our consumption and production patterns, and by delivering on ambitious commitments to sustainability, resilience, and net zero emissions.



The second session of the Pact for the Future for Humanity, coinciding with the celebration of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, focused on the “planet” aspect and on transforming the relationship with our ecosystems.

The Pact for the Future of Humanity session on the planet emphasized the need to transform our collective relationship with nature, and that local and regional governments must spearhead the development of a new vision for our common future. To reach this vision, we

must address climate change, both from a mitigation and adaptation perspective, while re-examining our values and co-creating systems for resilience.

The importance of empowering local communities to play a central role in protecting biodiversity, the environment, and the planet was discussed. Their key role in recreating local jobs, optimizing resources, in order to increase the quality of life and protect the environment, and encouraging the urgent transition to renewable energy systems was also highlighted.

The President of the region of Nouakchott in Mauritania, **Fatimetou Min Abdel Malick**, stressed that billions of people still lack access to the most basic urban services, which is the result of a conscious political choice, not a lack of resources. “We take care of the planet by developing a harmonious relationship between humanity and nature that protects the ecology and our life systems,” she explained.

**Hisham Amna**, Minister of Local Development of Egypt, the host country of COP27, stressed that fighting

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climate change provides a path to an equitable future. The “coming years are about time to start transforming visions into specific projects to solve climate crisis,” he added. The Minister called for an urgent collaborative effort on current issues from migration to food security.

**Mami Mizutori**, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, conveyed that there is a strong evidence that local and regional governments that invest in disaster risk reduction can protect both their citizens and their ecosystems.

As a representative of the social society stakeholders, **Pefi Kingi** of the Queen’s Service Medal (QSM) – Pacific Regional Focal Point Migration noted that “by 2050, there will be 258 million people on the move due to the climate impact, large cities are costal, and we all want resilience for those cities.” She called on UCLG leaders to extend their focus on the importance of oceans, and meaningfully include indigenous communities in conversations on the future of cities. **Andrew Potts**, from the Climate Heritage Network, addressed the local and regional leaders in the attendance, asking: “How are you, and how are we together, going to fix the climate response?”

**“The United Nations is committed to supporting local leaders, to drive the transformative change the world needs.”**

*Amina Mohamed,  
United Nations Deputy Secretary General*

**Gabriel Ferrero de Loma–Osorio** of the Committee on World Food Security stressed that food security can only be achieved if mayors and presidents of local associations work jointly. He commended UCLG for their support for constructing the urban–rural dichotomy to frame the policy environment around a more holistic and integrated approach to territories. **Daniel Akinjise** of the UCLG Youth Caucus said that youth need local officials to act, as they face food and water scarcity in addition to the climate issues.

“We need to listen to youth and to act today, so they have a future” **Iraci Hassler**, Mayor of Santiago said. She stated that environmental education is important, as well as the lessons learned from multilateral initiatives. “Political projects won’t be able to implement without future generations,” she concluded. **Noraini Roslan**, Mayor of Klang, says that specific local and regional governments in Malaysia declared a climate emergency and moved commitments from carbon neutral to net zero.

**Fozia Khalid Warraich**, Chairperson of Toba Tek Singh District and President of the Local Councils Association of the Punjab said that Pakistan was the first country to adopt the SDGs as its national development agenda. While **Fernando Gray**, Mayor of Esteban Echevarria, insisted that the local government has to be in the

center of all global discussions on sustainability and that “multilateralism is a future of sustainability.”

**Andreas Wolter**, Mayor of Cologne and **Jorge Perez Jaramillo** of the UCLG–Ubuntu Advisory Board both invited local and regional leaders to join hands and contribute to the sustainability initiatives. They called on local and regional governments to urgently move from over-consumption of natural resources to the protection of biodiversity, oceans, land, subsoil and atmosphere, as current patterns of production and consumption are destructive and totally unsustainable.

Partners driven by shared aspirations are invited to consultations exchanging and engaging on a concrete compromise for the future of the planet which will guide actions at this foundational moment. The future must take precedent over business as usual in the transition to zero carbon and local resilience, and we must drive change in building sustainable, equitable, and resilient cities and communities.

## PLEDGE OF THE UCLG PRESIDENCY ON THE PLANET COMPONENT OF THE PACT FOR THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY

During the Pact for the Future of Humanity plenary session focused on the “planet” pillar of the Pact, **Taneen Rudyk**, President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and UCLG Co-president, delivered a pledge on behalf of the UCLG Presidency for the approval of the World Council:

“Today we embody the consultative process that has built our vision for the future. We have gone hand in hand with our allies through the Town Hall process, the international advisory committee, the policy councils, and UCLG consultation mechanisms.

We have listened carefully to your message, loud and clear.

To rethink our modes of consumption, production, displacement and living, which today are the source of injustice and inequality, towards universal models that are regenerative, sustainable and resilient.

To lead a new vision of our common future in which we move from overexploitation of natural resources to the protection of biodiversity. In which we address the challenge of climate emergency and the transition to net zero carbon systems, risk reduction and urban resilience.

To transform the interaction between society, economy and nature, decouple economic development from the exhaustion of our planet, and lead ways

of life that transform the relationship with our ecosystems.

That is why, we, the cities and regions of the world:

We commit to address the climate emergency, environmental degradation and biodiversity depletion through a fair and equitable sharing of the benefits of climate action.

We commit to develop a vision that considers these actions by embracing the rights of nature as our own. Mobilizing all actors to make available the resources we need to reverse the climate and ecological crises.

We look to the future with responsibility. We are confident that our collective of local and regional governments is ready to join their national and international allies to put the care of the planet at the heart of our joint action.

The voice of cities and territories must contribute to rethinking the future together through key international milestones such as the SDG summit, the Future Summit, or the United Nations World Water Conference.

This is the commitment of cities and local governments united around the world to take care of our planet.”



# UCLG GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENDS WITH AGREEMENT FOR THE NEW COLLEGIAL PRESIDENCY

The UCLG General Assembly gathered yesterday to receive the reports from the Presidency, the priorities of the UCLG Sections, and the recommendations from the Town Halls and Policy Councils. The General Assembly ended with an agreement for a collegial presidency, with four Presidents for a four-year term.

When delivering the report from the Presidency, Honorary President **Mohamed Boudra** presented some of the work done over the last three years, guided by the outcome documents of the previous Congress held in Durban in 2019, and “shaped by an unprecedented difficult context.”

He stressed that the COVID-19 pandemic impact forced governments and citizens to put care at the center of all action. UCLG took a step forward too, led by the feminist municipal movement, to put care first in all areas of work and to initiate the process for the Pact for the Future of Humanity, because, he said, “it is through the “Power of We” that cities and regions are ready to deliver a world that cares.”

Among the many achievements, he highlighted the increasing presence and relevance of UCLG in multilateral spaces, such as the review of the New Urban Agenda and the Committee on Sustainable Urbanization – in which the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional governments, facilitated by UCLG, has been recognized as interlocutor.

Another notable point of progress toward stronger and more systematic engagement by the United Nations with subnational authorities included UN Secretary-General **Antonio Guterres’** proposal for a post-COVID-19 “Common Agenda” and the elevation municipal voices through the creation of a new UN Advisory Group on Local and Regional Government.

In terms of key partners, UCLG has worked closely with intergovernmental organizations, such as the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the World Health Organization, the International Organization for Migration, UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), and UN Women. In its efforts towards ecological transition and climate action, UCLG has been present in all the COPs, advocating for a redefinition on how we interact with the planet and for transforming production and consumption patterns.

## ELECTION OF THE UCLG VICE-PRESIDENTS

During the UCLG World Congress, the UCLG members appoint the Vice-Presidents from among the nominations put forward from the Sections and the Forum of Regions. The new UCLG Vice-Presidents for the period 2022–2026 are as follows:

For Africa, **Mr. Oumarou Dogari Moumouni**, Mayor of Niamey

For ASPAC, **Mr. Ashok Kumar Byanju Shrestha**, Mayor of Dhulikhel and President of the Municipal Association of Nepal

For Eurasia, **Mr. Aysen Nikolaev**, Head of Sakha Republic

For Europe, **Ms. Carola Gunnarsson**, Lord Mayor of Sala and Vice-President of the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR)

For MEWA, **Mr. Yücel Yilmaz**, Mayor of Balıkesir

For North America, **Ms. Taneen Rudyk**, Councillor of Vegreville and President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)

For Metropolis, **Ms. Claudia López**, Mayor of Bogotá and President of Metropolis

For the Forum of Regions: **Mr. Pablo Jurado**, President of CONGOPE

The member for Latin America is yet to be confirmed at the time of publication.

The new UCLG World Council will meet on Friday, 14 October 2022 during the last day of the Congress to adopt the Pact for the Future of Humanity and the work programme for 2023.

## PALMIRA WINS THE UCLG PEACE PRIZE

The UCLG Peace Prize recognizes local governments that implement strong initiatives in ensuring sustainable and peaceful development. During the General Assembly, the jury of the third edition of the Prize announced the winner out of the five cities selected as finalists.

The city selected for the prize was Palmira, Colombia, for implementing a comprehensive approach to violence prevention that involved prioritizing resources through its PAZOS (*Paz y Oportunidades*) project to work with the youth. The other finalists were Mersin, Turkey; Mishiha, Burundi; Monterrey, Mexico; and Recife, Brazil. The mayor of Palmira, **Oscar Escobar**, received the award and expressed his gratitude and announced that the 20,000 EUR prize will be “used as leverage with the new national government to increase the funding for programs and keep changing lives of a lot of young people in Colombia.”

Thanks to PAZOS, the mayor explained that Palmira has had its lowest homicide rate for the past seventeen years, a period of time in which they have comparable and good data. The Mayor said that the project helps young people to “find alternative life paths for them and for their families very much away of microtrafficking and in the hope of new opportunities, most important to believe in themselves.”





# UNLEASHING THE POWER OF CULTURE AS A PILLAR OF CLIMATE ACTION

The Town Hall on Culture and Climate, held on Thursday, 13 October, discussed the potential of culture to serve as a pillar for climate action and explored the cultural and social dimensions of ecological crises. The session participants proposed a new “Culture for Climate Agenda,” which entails a more significant role dedicated to culture in climate action.

During the session, participants discussed the report “The Future of Our Pasts: Engaging Cultural Heritage in Climate Action,” which was released in 2019 by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). The report outlines the need for an inclusive vision of the role of cultural heritage in responding to climate change and achieving the ambitions of the Paris Agreement.

Recent experiences (e.g., natural disasters) and testimonies by scientists show that our planet is in crisis and that the majority of efforts aimed at tackling these challenges will most likely fall short. The recent IPCC reports along with other evidence from multiple scientific disciplines warn that if the course is not corrected, the world will face even more catastrophic consequences in terms of biodiversity loss and climate change. A key aspect contributing to the failure of bending the emissions curve is the exorbitant lifestyle that we in some parts of the world have come to rely on, and the carbon economy that supports that lifestyle, according to a group of scientists, including the former Vice Chair of the IPCC. They further noted that the social imagery that conveys plausible ways of living without dependence on fossil fuels is scarce and that this is not just a climate change problem, – culture plays a vital role in forming habits and perceptions. In order to achieve the crucial targets, set by the Paris Agreement, our communities need to change our mindsets and our habits. It is therefore relevant to include and consider cultural aspects for the climate action.

In the policy paper the “Culture for Climate Agenda: Unleashing the Power of Culture as a Pillar of Climate Action,” which served as the basis for the session, the authors claim that “culture and climate change are transversal, multi-faceted, multi-scalar phenomena. The contributions of specific types of culture (e.g., music, archaeology) to various dimensions of climate action (e.g., adaptation, mitigation) in disparate sectors (e.g., transport, food) are increasingly well documented.” The current omission of cultural aspects from climate action, science, and policy is becoming increasingly apparent. Culture is being recognized slowly for its potential to lead to a paradigm shift; however, the question is raised as to whether the inclusion of culture in climate action can be done fast enough given the urgency.

The policy paper offers four key building blocks of the cultural pillar for climate action: (1) culture as enabler of social imaginaries; (2) culture strengthening resilience; (3) promoting inclusive climate action through culture; and, (4) culture as a motor of climate resilient development.

For the “Culture for Climate Agenda” to succeed, it must be locally grounded and led by cities and their leaders, which are at the forefront of tackling these issues and tend to bring people together to create, innovate, and find solutions to complex problems. Moreover, cities can serve as a platform for the paradigm shift in changing the cultural perception of today’s “carbonscapes and take-make-waste” mindsets. The urgency of the climate crisis calls for immediate actions, but the good news is that many of these actions can already be taken by local and regional governments.

On the same day as this Town Hall session, the presentation of the #Culture2030Goal campaign took place to highlight the importance of culture for the successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and for the UCLG’s Pact for the Future of Humanity.





# THE “RIGHT TO THE CITY” AS A DRIVING PRINCIPLE FOR THE GLOBAL COMMONS



One of the UCLG World Congress Town Hall sessions on 13 October was dedicated to the commons, more precisely the importance of creating conditions to protect and foster the commons. The “commons” are defined as material and immaterial goods, resources, services, and social practices that are considered fundamental for the reproduction of life. Therefore, the global commons cannot be commodified but must be cared for and managed in a collective way, using the democratic principles of direct participation, radical inclusion, and intersectional equity and justice. They must also be approached within a continuum of stewardship and commitment, taking into account past, current, and future generations and all forms of life.

While the relevance of the commons has been substantiated some time ago via strategies that put forward collective well-being and care of natural and social goods and practices as part of a renewed social contract, the interest in urban commons is still emerging. The discussions about community parks and public spaces, infrastructure, access to basic services

and affordable housing, urban social movements, and the call for local governments to take a progressive approach, have been raised to countervail the harmful side-effects of gentrification and privatization, among other challenges that cities and their residents face.

The policy paper “Global Commons,” the foundation of the discourse, suggests a framework centered on the right to the city as a driving principle in transformative ‘commoning’ initiatives (i.e., initiatives aimed at fostering and improving the quality of the commons). The close connection between the right to the city and the commons is reflected by three facets: (1) common goods in the city; (2) the city as a common good; and (3) commons/commoning as a tool for implementing the right to the city.

Local and regional governments play a crucial role in protecting, strengthening, and multiplying the commons and will need to develop original strategies and approaches to address the many challenges, including morphological, demographic,

and governance transformations that cities face. To implement the recommendations, rights and key resources need to be secured, and residents must be able to rely on open and participatory approaches. In this sense, the commoning processes can be implemented through strategies that harness collective action, enabling local and regional spheres can become exhibits of the collective management of common goods through public-community partnerships. The strengthened collaboration with civil society under collective management schemes can allow for local and regional governments to act more effectively and to respond to increasing urban challenges while addressing the needs of communities.

The session resulted in several recommendations for strategic actions that support existing commoning initiatives and create a positive environment for new initiatives emerged. The recommendations for immediate actions include: open up consultations and foster participatory engagement of various constituencies; identify gaps and possibilities within the regulatory framework and suggest modifications and improvements needed to foster and protect commons; and, establish permanent two-way communications channels between public authorities and community actors. Other recommendations related to participatory design; regulatory innovations and mechanisms for collaboration; social control; peer-to-peer sustained learning; and capacity-building.





# CLIMATE ACTION AND RESILIENCE: EARLY ACTION AND INVESTMENTS SAVES LIVES

No conference involving aware leaders can take place in today's times without acknowledging climate change. Considering that cities account for more than 70% of the world's CO2 emissions while also suffering most of the consequences of climate change, climate action and resilience are some of the most important topics at the UCLG World Congress.

In summer 2022, all Korean local and regional governments – 220 in total – declared a “Climate Emergency” with a unique movement that was similar to declaring a pandemic. This important signal by subnational governments emphasized the urgent need for climate action in the country. Inspired by this unified process, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability hosted a dialogue on Thursday, 13 October, inviting mayors and high-level officials to look into the purpose, process, and impact of declaring a climate emergency at the local and regional level.

The event also took place on the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, which encourages citizens and governments to take part in building more disaster-resilient communities and nations. Both the COVID-19 pandemic and the global climate emergency have shown that local and regional governments are firmly on the frontline of resilience efforts. From the development of people-centered early warning systems to early action plans, public service provision, and risk-sensitive urban planning, they are key to the progress towards the 2030 Agenda and to the implementation of the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#). In particular, Target G of the Sendai Framework (increased access to multi-hazard early warning systems) will support the achievement of SDG 11.

More and more cities are recognizing the need for a resilience strategy. With the [Making Cities Resilient 2030](#) initiative, the UNDRR supports cities and local governments in taking a long-term and systemic approach to resilience. During their workshop on Thursday, October 13, UNDRR showcased the cost of doing nothing as opposed to the opportunities that capacity building, improved local risk governance, and resilience financing can provide. For example, investing USD \$800 million in early-warning systems in developing countries would avoid losses of between USD \$3 billion and USD \$16 billion per year. So far, almost 1,400 cities representing over 387 million people have become members of Making Cities Resilient 2030 campaign.

Climate justice is another important element of the climate action and resilience topic. The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy hosted an event on multilevel climate action for sustainable, low-emissions, and resilient territories. By identifying leverage points for multilevel climate action, the session on 13 October created new material to feed into the Pact for the Future of Humanity as well as discussions at the [COP27 climate conference](#) in November 2022.

Connective Cities hosted an event on flood risk management and the importance of municipal preparedness on Thursday 13 October, which showed that a wide variety of actors play a role in ensuring sustainable and efficient municipal flood management. This is particularly significant against the backdrop of increasingly frequent and more extreme weather events. [Connective Cities](#) aims for a common learning and exchange process with mutual learning, peer-to-peer exchange, the development of common project ideas, and insights into good practices in the field of flood prevention, protection, and management.



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## IN BRIEF: THE MAKING CITIES RESILIENT 2030 INITIATIVE

Making Cities Resilient 2030, or [MCR2030](#), is a United Nations-led global collaboration of partners committed to support local governments to strengthen their disaster resilience. Through delivering a clear three-stage roadmap to urban resilience and by providing tools, access to knowledge and to tools for monitoring and reporting, MCR2030 supports cities on their journey to reduce risk and build resilience.

Since its launch in October 2020, MCR2030 has mobilized nearly 1,400 local governments, representing a population of over 387 million as part of this unique cross-stakeholder initiative that is improving local resilience by making cities safer, preventing risks, and promoting innovation and investments. MCR2030 welcomes cities, local governments, as well as any other parties wishing to help municipalities prosper through advocacy, knowledge-sharing, and city-to-city networks.



# HOW CAN THE 2030 AGENDA BE LOCALIZED IN CITIES?

The Local4Action track at the UCLG World Congress looks at governance and accessibility. A key question is how, with eight years left until 2030, the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 can be realized in cities. To answer this critical question, the Congress features helpful tools that help local governments to convert the SDGs into ambitious local action. This process is known as the localization of the 2030 Agenda. This process places territories and communities at the center, working in coherence with national frameworks and in line with communities' priorities to transform the SDGs into reality.

Out of the SDGs monitoring tools, the Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) are particularly important to capture SDG progress at the local level. So far, more than 150 cities and regional governments have already published a VLR. On Thursday 13 October, the Working Group on Capacity and Institution Building explores how to capture local progress, and to interlink Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs) and VLRs.

As with the SDGs themselves, every city and municipality needs to find a tool that works for the local context. For example, the SDG circle exercise is a low-threshold localization tool used by local governments. It supports the implementation and advancement of the SDGs in accordance with internal, local, and global policy. The simple worksheet can be downloaded and used to assess the work of municipalities in hands-on workshops.

In the Finnish city Espoo, SDG localization is done through an innovative SDG sensemaking tool. The tool helps each city to focus on certain elements of the SDGs based on the individual city's priorities. Finland also works with partner cities to share their knowledge and inspire each other toward local action.

Tools for local and regional governments are an important element of the UN SDG Action Campaign, which aims to offer support to these governments so that they are empowered to take action and achieve the ambitious goals of the 2030 Agenda over the next eight years.

## 10, 100, 1,000 HUMAN RIGHTS CITIES! BUILDING UNIVERSALITY THROUGH LOCAL DIVERSITY

Human rights have been one of the main focus areas of the UCLG Summit in Daejeon. The importance of strengthening the political commitment to human rights at the local level has been highlighted again in the presentation of the UCLG's Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights (UCLG-CISDPDH) global campaign "10, 100, 1,000 Human Rights Cities and Territories by 2030."

The implementation of international human rights law is both a responsibility of local and regional governments and an opportunity for these governments to act on behalf of residents, to respond to their needs and aspirations and to ensure dignity for all. This is what has fueled the campaign to strive to gather 1,000 local and regional governments together

from all over the world by 2030, with the aim of strengthening the global movement on "Human Rights Cities and Territories."

By leveraging human rights as a vector of transformation and empowerment to revamp the socio-territorial contract with local communities, the Human Rights Cities and Territories campaign also emphasizes the importance of democracy and civic participation alongside collaboration with civil society and relevant organizations.

The campaign will promote the connection among local initiatives at the international level to promote solidarity, cooperation, and dialogue between cities and territories and to expand the global movement and momentum. It will also scale up local actions on human rights to foster recognition and participation of local and regional governments in human rights global agendas and mechanisms, while encouraging these governments to adopt and recognize local human rights frameworks to guide their actions.

All local and regional governments worldwide of all sizes, from all types of jurisdictions are welcome to join the campaign, provided they have a willingness to commit to the realization of human rights.

## WHAT'S ON TODAY

14 OCTOBER 2022

Today marks the final day of the Congress. It will begin with the Local4Action and Networking Hub events, which start at 10:00 AM.

Among other relevant events, at 10:00 AM a presentation of the GOLD VI Report: Pathways to Urban and Territorial Equality will take place at DCC1 – Agora. At the same time in DCC1 – Networking Hub, the documentary "From Inequality to Care-based Communities: The case of Bogotá" will be screened.

At 11:30 AM, the presentation of the 16th IOPD Best Practice Award will take place in DCC1 – Networking Hub.

At 12:00 PM noon, the Town Hall process will continue with the session on Trust and Governance.

The last session of the Pact for the Future of Humanity will be held at 1:30 PM in DCC1 – Grand Ballroom. Online participants will be able to follow this session as it will be held in a hybrid format.

Following the last session of the Pact for the Future of Humanity, at 3:00 PM the UCLG World Council will take place, which will elect the leadership of the organization and the members of the Executive Bureau after an electoral process conducted through the UCLG sections.

To end the Congress, at 6:00 PM the Closing Ceremony will take place at DCC2 Exhibition Hall and can also be followed online.

