

MUNICIPAL *times*. Magazine

A publication of the Urban Journalism Institute, developed with UCLG, to leverage the knowledge mobilized by local and regional governments, as well as stakeholders, in key global events.

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**LOCAL LEADERS
PLEDGE AS ONE!**

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EDITORIAL

A NEW STEP FORWARD

The world's largest meeting of mayors, local and regional leaders and their associations closed on 14 October 2022 in Daejeon, Republic of Korea. It was the first time after the breakout of the COVID-19 pandemic that most of them met physically.

During the worst moments of the health crisis, cities were on the frontline, active and tireless in performing tasks they know best: creating proximity, offering care, and fostering inclusiveness. Virtual bilateral or collective meetings were the main channel of communication for mayors to join forces, ask for urgent support, find common solutions or share concrete practices for nearly everything: producing masks, distributing food, managing basic services for everyone and everywhere, attending to the most vulnerable or strengthened healthcare.

The social and economic impact of the pandemic was the next global challenge. Local governments strongly requested for transformative multilevel recovery plans. The need for local implementation as the main driver for a more resilient and sustainable systems able to leave no one and no place behind was not only more obvious than ever, but even unavoidable.

During the whole period between 2020 and 2022, UCLG kept its key role as an enabler for its constituency. The emergency was managed in parallel with a structured, thoughtful and inspirational multistakeholder co-creation process for a common and long-term recovery agenda. That process culminated with the approval of the **Pact for the Future of Humanity**, a profound commitment of local and regional leaders towards a sustainable and inclusive transformation as representatives of the citizens they serve.

The powerful statement was accompanied by the election of a renewed and multiregional UCLG leadership, led for the first time ever by a female mayor, Carolina Cosse, Mayor of Montevideo.

The Pact is a bold, tactic and strategic step forward of local multilateralism. On 23 and 24 September 2024, the United Nations will celebrate the "Summit of Future: the multilateral solutions for a better tomorrow". Local leaders have already prepared their contribution. They are ready to discuss, contribute and offer support at the heart of multilateralism.

CARE, TRUST AND A COMMON FEMINIST FUTURE



The 7th UCLG World Congress and Summit of Local and Regional Leaders closed on 14 October 2022 with the participation of more than 3,000 representatives from all over the world. The adoption of the Pact for the Future of Humanity was the most relevant outcome of the event held in Daejeon, Republic of Korea.

Built on the outcomes of the past UCLG Congress in Durban, South Africa, in 2019, the Congress strengthened the dialogue between the local and regional governments constituency and the civil society organizations by creating a Town Hall process which have fed the three axes of the Pact for the Future (People, Planet and Government).

Civil society, academia, professionals, youth, older persons, grassroots women associations, among others, were part of the nearly three year-long process to prepare the Pact. UCLG also worked closely with intergovernmental organizations, such as the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the World Health Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, and UN Women.

The Pact's pledges and commitments were discussed during all the sessions in Daejeon, proposing care, feminism, accessibility, trust and ecological transition as key actionable areas to achieve it.

As the approved document states, for "a world that bridges local actions and global trends, bringing the territorial perspective to the global agendas. For a feminist world that cares and guarantees equal rights for us all. For world driven by well-informed, critical and empowered communities. For a world based on solidarity".

A call for the global Feminist Municipal movement

The Daejeon Congress and Summit also witnessed an historic achievement of the global feminist municipal movement with the election of the first female mayor as President of UCLG.

Carolina Cosse, Mayor of Montevideo since November 2020, and former Minister of Industry, Energy and Mining of Uruguay, will be accompanied by five other female mayors in the UCLG leadership, such as Ada Colau, Mayor of Barcelona; Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris; Carola Gunnarson, Mayor of Sala; Asmaa Rhalou, Mayor of Rabat; or Fatimetou Abdel Malick, the president of Nouackchott Region.

One of the commitments included in The Pact for the Future is a "call for a feminist leadership", as well as "foster a feminist way of going about politics".

A STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE

A Pact for the Future, the outcome of the UCLG World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders in Daejeon

The Pact for the Future is the key outcome document of the 2022 World Congress. It defines the Strategic Priorities for the Organization 2022 to 2028. With the Pact, local and regional governments reaffirm that they are ready to join national and international partners in bringing meaningful change.

Local and regional governments have proven that they are ready to deliver real, tangible and constant actions over time, with individual citizens, households and communities playing an active and leading role. Globally, all local, regional, and national governments need to redouble their efforts in delivering their commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals, the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the New Urban Agenda in line with human rights treaties. Progress and success will benefit not only today's citizens, but also younger generations and the generations to come.

The Pact is a global initiative grounded in a hope for a better future. It demonstrates possibilities for other ways to develop and that, collectively, the resources, intellectual capacity, skills and desire for change are available in the necessary abundance.

Through this Pact for the Future, UCLG members and the organized constituency of local and regional governments emphasize their commitment to the power

of collective action, empowerment, shared ownership, co-creation, and international cooperation and solidarity: the very cornerstones of harmonious and sustainable societies.

In their own words, for UCLG, the Pact is "consciously standing on the shoulders of those people who have built the movement over more than a century." And it celebrates "the Power of We, to inspire our vision and deliver our commitments. The Power of We encapsulates both the desire and the method of the municipal movement to contribute to a better, safer, accessible, peaceful and more equal future through our collective voice and agency."

UCLG members and their stakeholders aim to reaffirm "our common humanity", and "reject greed, prejudice and division", choosing "to place care at the heart" of the Pact for the Future. The three axes of the Pact (People, Planet, and Government) showcase care for the human rights of all people and care for the integrity of the planet.



THE CHALLENGES

PEOPLE:

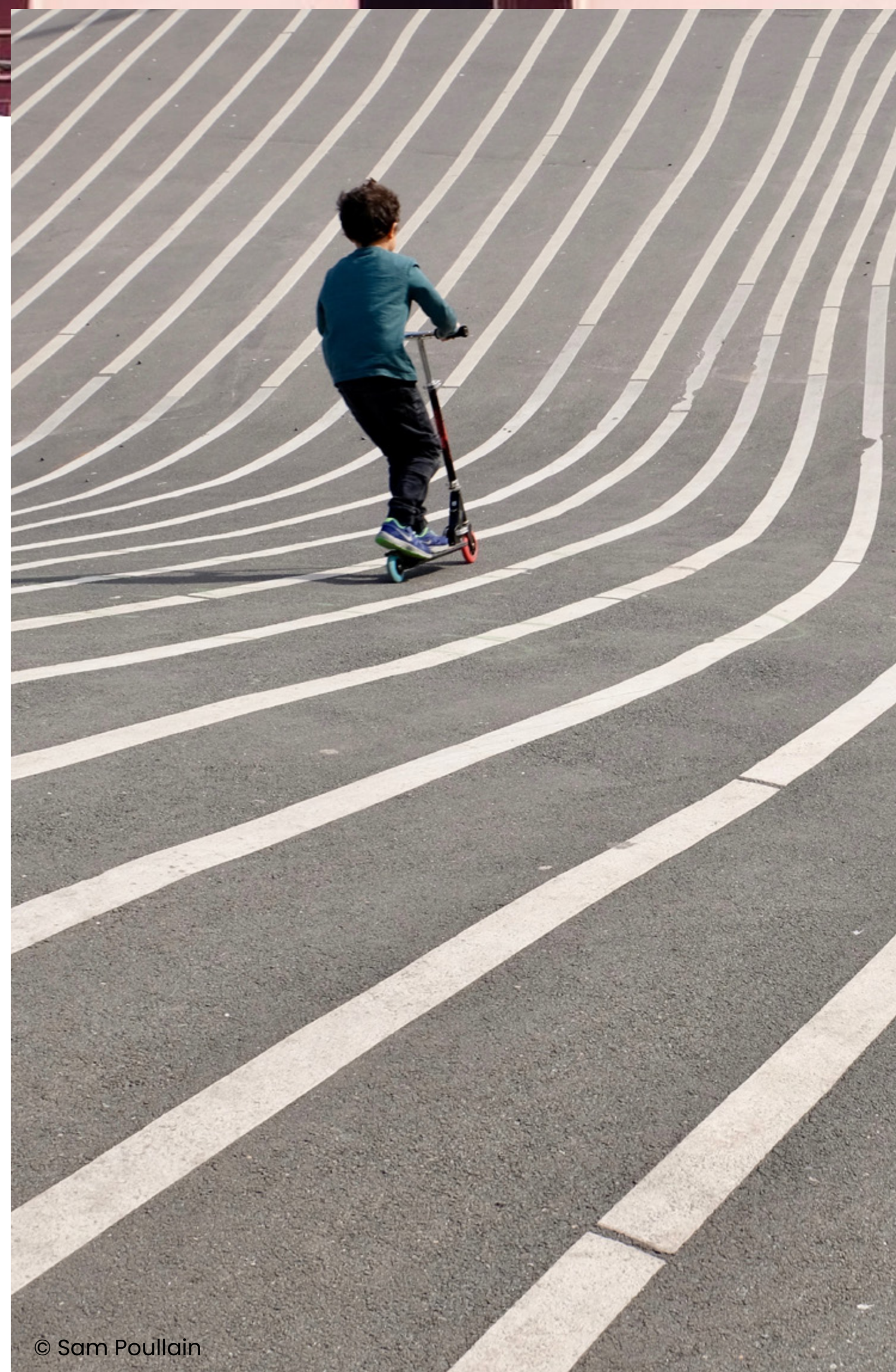
Unfortunately, today, the word “people” is a synonym for inequality. But, it shouldn’t be like that. If all actors join forces the word “people” should be a synonym for equality, the elimination of poverty, inclusive and equitable political participation, universal access to services, accessibility, inclusion, dignity and decent work.

PLANET:

Unfortunately, today, the word “planet” is a synonym for climate emergency, environmental degradation, biodiversity depletion and overexploitation of natural resources. But, it shouldn’t be like that. If all actors join forces, the word “planet” should become a synonym for a new mode of consumption and production, protection of biodiversity, and net zero carbon systems, risk reduction and resilience.

GOVERNMENT:

Unfortunately, in many regions of the world today, the word “government” is a synonym to a lack of inclusiveness in the governing systems, and the lack of trust between citizens and institutions. But, it shouldn’t be like that. If all actors join forces, the word “government” should become a synonym for democracy and open, constructive and sustained structural dialogue between parties.





THE THREE PLEDGES TO DRIVE TRANSFORMATION

The Pact for the Future for People places people at the centre, deepening the needs of current generations and expanding the rights of future ones by guaranteeing access to public services and the commons. As we acknowledge the impact of growing inequalities within and between cities, the Pact seeks to deliver fairness and intersectional justice for everyone and for every place.

The Future for Planet promotes systems and ways of living in harmony with our planet while building resilience and sustainability through policies that renature our production and consumption models will be crucial cornerstones of the Pact for the Future - and an endeavor that no actor nor level of government can achieve alone.

The Future for Government is founded upon the call of our communities who are increasingly pleading for the transformation of governing systems. We are in a once-in-a-generation opportunity to review and improve our tools to respond to the challenges we face, to ensure we drive a profound transformation of our societies and our systems.

These are extracts of the Pact for the Future.
You can read the full version of the document [here](http://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/uclgpactforthe_future.pdf).
www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/uclgpactforthe_future.pdf

A woman with dark hair and glasses, wearing a light-colored blazer, is sitting on a blue stadium seat. She is looking slightly to her right. The background consists of many rows of similar empty blue seats, creating a sense of isolation. The entire image has a blue color cast.

Fernando Gray, Mayor of Esteban Echeverría, Buenos Aires

“While the SDGs set a broad and global horizon, their achievement will be possible if cities can turn them into reality. Local governments must be at the centre of the discussion.”

Philippe Rio, Mayor of Grigny

“Feminism, ecology and peace are the engine, the fuel of the Pact.”

Noraini Roslan, Mayor of Klang

“Our future is about a better relationship with nature and ecosystems. It is imperative a behaviour and cultural change.”

A RENEWED LEADERSHIP



The elected members for the 2022–2026 UCLG policymaking bodies will bring the Pact for the Future to fruition

The 2022 World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders saw the renewal of the UCLG policymaking bodies, including its political leadership, until the next Congress. The Presidential team of UCLG is elected by the World Council in the framework of the UCLG World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders. To ensure they have a full democratic mandate conferred to them by local elected officials from across the world, according to the UCLG Constitution, the members of the Presidency shall hold a local electoral mandate. They must also be at the head of a local government or a national association of local governments.

The election of the full Presidential team is a global process, responding to a call for candidatures. The World Council appointed in Daejeon, following a full-year democratic process organized by country delegations and world regions and sections, is the body that elects the presidency.

Candidates were encouraged to maintain discussion among themselves to reach a Presidency ticket that would represent the diversity of the Organization, with the highest consensus possible. This mandate to the candidates was ratified by the Executive Bureau and the General Assembly of UCLG, which in turn helped the UCLG leadership come to an agreement to develop a collegial Presidency, with a rotating President for a mandate of one year.

UCLG LEADERSHIP 2022-2026

CURRENT PRESIDENT



“Accompanied by the entire Presidency and the women leaders of our organization, we will seek to deepen our feminist legacy, so that the voices of women and girls are not only heard, but also represent the foundation of our movement and our planet”.

Carolina Cosse

Mayor of Montevideo

ROTATING EXECUTIVE PRESIDENTIAL TEAM



Uğur Ibrahim Altay

Mayor of Konya



Jan van Zanen

Mayor of The Hague and President of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG)



Lee Jang-Woo

Mayor of Daejeon

CO-PRESIDENTS



Johnny Araya
Mayor of San José



Altay Kulginov
Mayor of Astana



Li Mingyuan
Mayor of Xi'an



Bekhe Stofile
President of the South African Local Government Association – SALGA



Berry Vrbanovic
Mayor of Kitchener

TREASURER



Asmaa Rhlalou
Mayor of Rabat

**STANDING COMMITTEE
ON GENDER EQUALITY**



Fatimetou Abdel Malick
President of Nouakchott Region

HONORARY PRESIDENT



Mohamed Boudra
Former Mayor of Al Hoceima
President of the Moroccan Association of Presidents of Communal Councils

Special Representation

AMBASSADORS OF THE PACT FOR THE FUTURE



Ambassador for the Future of People

Ada Colau

Mayor of Barcelona



Ambassador for the Future of Planet

Anne Hidalgo

Mayor of Paris



Ambassador for the Future of Government

Yücel Yılmaz

Mayor of Balıkesir

SPECIAL ENVOYS



Special Envoy for the New Urban Agenda

Carlos Martínez

Mayor of Soria



**Special Envoy for Freedom, Solidarity and
Fighting Violence against Local Political
Leaders**

Carola Gunnarsson

Mayor of Sala



Special Envoy for Food Systems

Mohamed Sefiani

Mayor of Chefchaouen

Oleksandr Sienkevych, Mayor of Mykolayiv

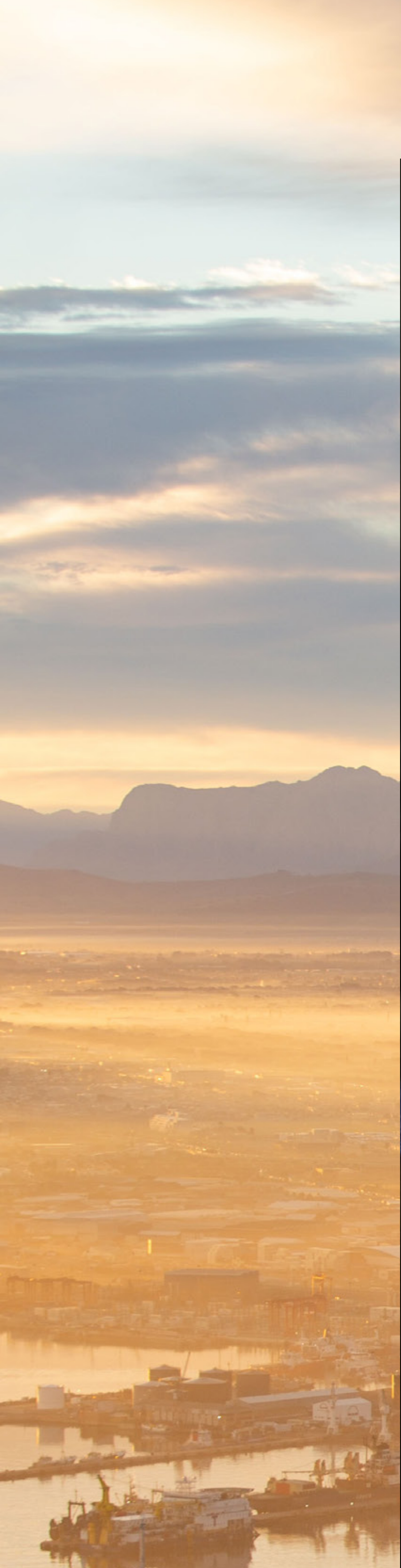
“Local governments have the responsibility to share the challenges facing citizens and the need to provide a continuous support for recovery and reconstruction.”

Irací Hassler, Mayor of Santiago de Chile

“We need to listen to youth and to act today, so they have a future. Political projects won't be implemented without future generations.”

Uğur İbrahim Altay, Mayor of Konya

“Conscious of the challenges and willing to fulfil this endeavour, we are ready to contribute to the revitalization of the multilateral system.”



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SHAPING THE FUTURE, SHAPING THE NARRATIVE



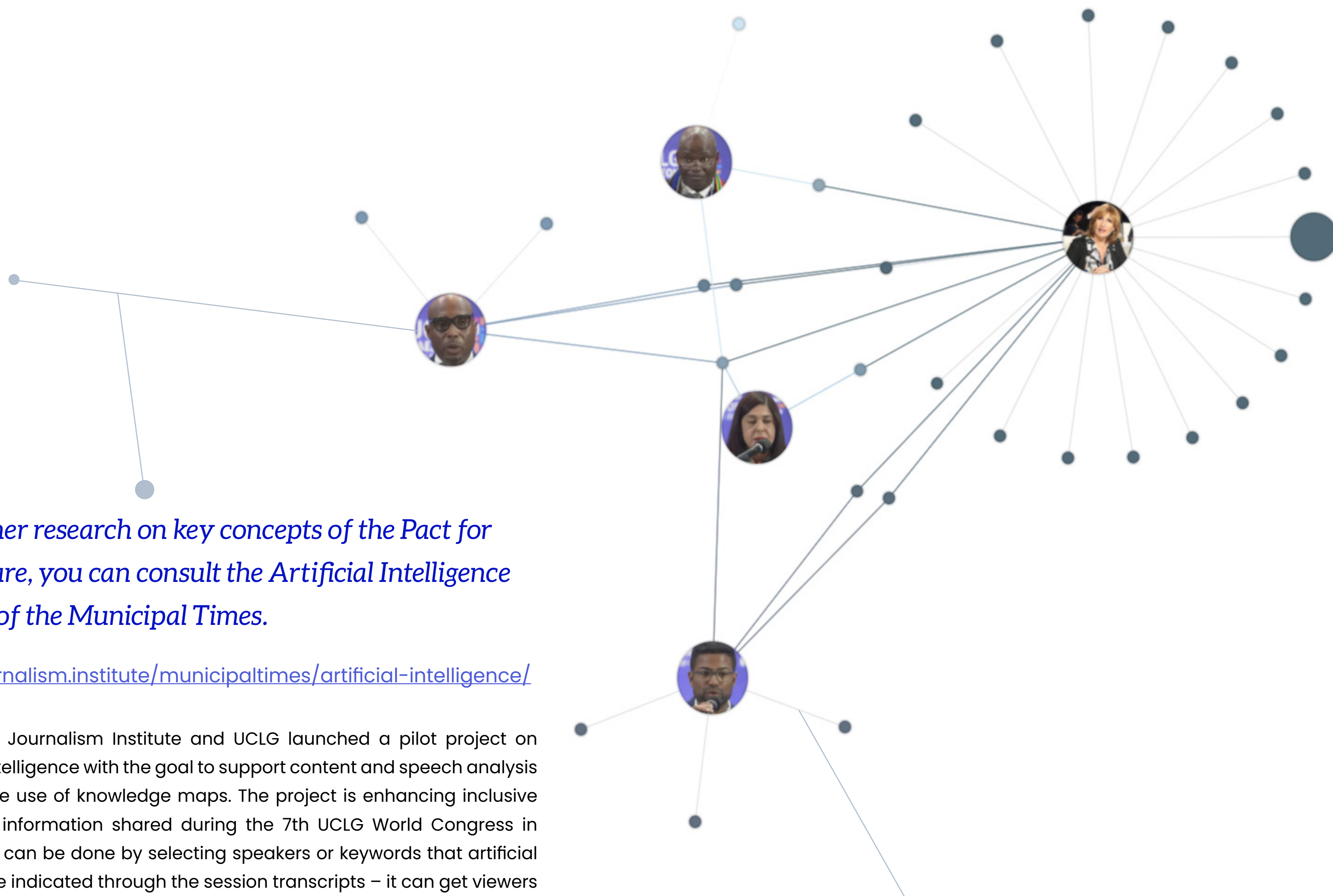
The unprecedented challenges and emerging crises the world is facing today require political commitments to shift the direction towards a better future, where the role of the municipal movement is crucial. It also means more participation and engagement from local communities, increasing democracy, responsibility, accountability and ownership.

The global agendas adopted by the United Nations in the 2015 and 2016 period introduced some new concepts which have gained space in the last decade. It is the case for example of "localization", "territorial development", "resilience", "climate action" or "partnerships".

The Three Pledges of the Pact on People, Planet and Government have something in common: they show a new narrative for development which progress is measurable through the lives of the currently poor, excluded and structurally discriminated populations, as well as environment.

The Pact means to "celebrate" the "Power of We" of "care-centred democracies" to realize the "universal Right to the City for all". It proposes "reciprocal caring and sharing"; "honesty" and "co-responsibility". It is driven by "free citizens", "a feminist leadership", "well-informed and empowered citizenship" and "collective imaginations".

The United Nations has already announced a Summit of the Future in 2024 with an expected outcome document also entitled "A Pact for the Future". The marathon to shape the narrative for the post-2030 agendas has started.



To further research on key concepts of the Pact for the Future, you can consult the Artificial Intelligence section of the Municipal Times.

urbanjournalism.institute/municipaltimes/artificial-intelligence/

The Urban Journalism Institute and UCLG launched a pilot project on artificial Intelligence with the goal to support content and speech analysis through the use of knowledge maps. The project is enhancing inclusive access to information shared during the 7th UCLG World Congress in Daejeon. It can be done by selecting speakers or keywords that artificial intelligence indicated through the session transcripts – it can get viewers to the exact second where a word/sentence is mentioned by a selected speaker. It also creates knowledge maps, with the possibility to explore the main topics discussed during the sessions by speaker, as well as to interrelate contents and speakers, determining the thematic coincidences of their interventions.

Anthropological understanding, compassion, collective liberation...

The use of artificial intelligence allows to analyse the Pact's narrative and the power of language when building common visions.

"We are the sea, we are the ocean, we must wake up to this ancient truth...", the quote from Epeli Hau'ofa, a Tongan and Fijian writer and anthropologist, was the beginning of the speech by the activist Pefi Kingi on 13 October 2022 in Daejeon.

Kingi has a powerful voice, built with the culture of her ancestors, shaped with the knowledge of dialects and languages and driven by the hope of the future. She was born and raised in Niue and educated in New Zealand and the United States. In 2009, Pefi received the Queen's Service Medal for services to the Pacific Islands community and now she is working as the Pacific Regional Focal Point for Migration.

In her speech at the plenary on the Pact for the Future for Planet, she referred to official documents, referenced fragments of what she considered relevant, and introduced concepts familiar to those working with and for sustainable development.

The artificial intelligence tool piloted by the Urban Journalism Institute and UCLG during the World Congress allowed to also discover other concepts usually omitted from official reports and summaries.



Care, compassion, collective liberation, *anthro* understanding were mentioned along with the five principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, the founding document of central importance to the political constitution of Aotearoa New Zealand: Kawanatanga (the Principle of Government); Rangatiratanga (the Principle of Self-Management); the Principle of Equality; the Principle of Cooperation, and the Principle of Redress.

"May we call on you UCLG leaders to please consider supporting lost and damages and given thought and due consideration to supporting redress".

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Valongo, with a blue overlay. A soccer field is visible in the lower half of the image. The text is overlaid on the image.

José Manuel Ribeiro, Mayor of Valongo

“Democracy is not a result, it is a process, we have to strengthen this process.”

Jan van Zanen, Mayor of The Hague and President of VNG

“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.”

Souad Abderrahim, Mayor of Tunis

“There cannot be strong countries without strong cities. The Pact for the Future puts people and cities at the centre to promote development and opportunities for everyone. Equality is a pillar to building peace in our communities.”

INTERVIEW

TOWN HALL ON GLOBAL COMMONS

Sophia Torres

Global Platform for the Right to the City

“Going from participation to co-management”

“(Global) Commons” is the Policy Paper which resulted from the Town Hall process, a space for dialogue between internationally organized civil society and the political leadership of the local and regional governments constituency. The Global Platform for the Right to the City is one of the leading organizations which presented the conclusions at the UCLG World Congress and Summit of World Leaders. The Town Hall process was also supported by the Cities Coalition for Digital Rights, the Open Society Foundation, Accord, UNICEF and FAO. The final document is available [here](#).

Sophia Torres is a member of the Global Platform for the Right to the City and the Habitat International Coalition General Secretariat teams, working on issues related to global advocacy. Sophia has a degree in International Relations from PUC-SP and a master's degree in Urban Policy from Sciences Po Paris, she is specialized in urban public policies with a focus on the right to housing and right to the city, mainly in the Latin America context.

What is your view on the Town Hall process and its progress so far?

We were lucky to have been part of the first Town Hall process in 2019 and to continue on the second round here in Daejeon. I see progress in the scaling up in the process itself. I think the experience of Durban was really good, but we are happy that it has been scaled up in a more ambitious way. In Durban, we added to the process with some key messages in the form of policy papers and have Town Hall; this time around, it was completely different. We had a 10-month process of discussions and debates that weren't only between our organizations, which was the case in Durban, but with many others. The exchanges and alliances between organizations in our Town Hall but also with other Town Halls have been very powerful, so I am very happy with that.

Formal commitment for this to be a more qualified, more participatory process is another takeaway. One of our key messages is “going from participation to co-management” and the way the Town Hall is being done, we are slowly advancing towards that. The proof of it will be what comes after. We are very happy with what we presented and the collectively constructed ideas.

We are still seeing how this is aligned with the vision of the Pact for the future. We are convinced it is compatible, but what matters is for the whole UCLG ecosystem to embrace these ideas and put them into action. The ground has been set, we are excited and there is lots to do.

What are your main conclusions of the Congress?

The first take-away from the debate before the congress was the debate on global and local commons, or whether we should find a middle ground for them to co-exist? What we developed in our Town Hall is a very much a localized vision of the commons; not only commons, but commoning as a process with the aim of guaranteeing the Right to the City for all through co-management of common resources and goods between civil society and local governments. That in itself is an exercise that changes the way decisions are made and that reinstated trust.

The second take-away is that this process of commoning or joint management, not just participation, is a key stepping stone of the idea of a renewed social contract: Our position is that there is no new social contract without people, government and planet; but that for the link between people and government to work, we have to go a step forward and think beyond representation and participation more towards co-management and joint work; these are our recommendations.

In our paper, we set concrete action steps for local and regional governments for commoning and perfecting their initiatives and act in a way that other commoning practices can flourish. This happens on the local level and the transformative way of how we make decisions and policy and find answers to live together – doing this at the local level puts a collective of civil society and local governments with a renewed legitimacy in the discussion of a renewed local multilateral governance.



Sophia Torres

How do you see the Pact for the Future?

I see the Pact as ambitious, but necessary. We need to have a common vision for this constituency to guide action locally and globally. What we really need is for the elements from the Town Halls to be fully represented in the Pact, including concrete recommendations for actions. The next step is how to articulate how to go from vision to action. I think the Pact sets the vision and it's an ambitious vision. Something that's been said quite a bit at the Congress is the idea of UCLG constituting the "coming of age of municipalist movement" – the Pact is a vision of this. But especially after the pandemic, it's clear the capacity of action and the pressure for response from communities is massive, so the vision has to match with the responsibility that they have with communities.

The Pact sets a clear and diverse vision. Now we need to see how UCLG can articulate this vision in multiple ways into action. How can the local level act globally with direct action of local and regional governments, and as a constituency and with civil society?

This is my main takeaway from congress: There has been learning and there is capacity for action and a belief that we can act together. The pieces are there, and we just need to articulate this action.

What are the next steps for your organization?

Our organization is and will always be committed to fulfilment and recognition of the Right to the City. We hope to keep building this with UCLG and local and regional governments as key partners at the local level, but also coming together for a full recognition of the Right to the City with support of multilateral system, within the United Nations and human rights organizations, for example.

We will keep on working and do it even more with local governments to create R2C-aligned policies at local level and bridge gap between global commitments and discussions, influence them and take them back to local level, back and forth. This will be the continuation of our work. We want to set an agenda for municipal policies for R2C. we presented this today in a session.

On the other side, we are very excited to continue collaboration with UCLG and local governments on recognising and fostering commons and commoning as a strategy to advance the R2C. The discussion yesterday in the Town Hall was really good and we see that governments understand what commoning is. But we still have to work more into how to implement commoning practices for real. Many cities are leading the way, but we need to have more exchanges and sustained and peer learning and use capacities that we have to support those actors to advance on implementing the recommendations.

INTERVIEW

TOWN HALL ON TRUST AND GOVERNMENT

Eugenie Birch
Chair, General Assembly of Partners

“The Pact opens areas where we as civil society can have collaboration with local leaders”

“Time for a New Social Contract: Rebuilding Trust in Local Government” is the Policy Paper which resulted from the Town Hall process, a space for dialogue between internationally organized civil society and the political leadership of the local and regional governments constituency. The General Assembly of Partners is one of the leading organizations which presented the conclusions at the UCLG World Congress and Summit of World Leaders. The Town Hall process was also supported by the Open Government Partnership, Fixed Africa, International IDEA, UN-Habitat and the Youth, Feminist and Accessibility Caucuses. The final document is available [here](#).

Eugenie L. Birch is the President of the General Assembly of Partners, the engagement platform for the implementation of the United Nations's New Urban Agenda, and Lawrence C. Nussdorf chair of Urban Research and Education at the University of Pennsylvania. She also serves as chair of the Graduate Group in City and Regional Planning, co-director for the Penn Institute for Urban Research, and co-editor of City in the 21st Century Series, University of Penn Press and the SSRN Urban Research e-journal.

What is your view on the Town Hall process and its progress so far?

I'm very enthusiastic about the Town Hall process because this is the second time that I have been involved in it through my role in the General Assembly of Partners. We applied the lessons we learned in Durban in 2019: firstly, involving many more partners in the creation of the policy brief and secondly, reviewing the policy brief with the UCLG policy committee before the Town Hall. This meeting before the Congress was very helpful because we got comments that helped us finish the policy brief. Thirdly, this time the people who are managing the process at UCLG were able to bring more mayors to the discussion at the Town Hall itself. That made it very exciting. And lastly, the location of the Town Hall activities at the conference was very good. They were centrally located: When you walked in, you were right there with the Town Hall facility in front of you.

How do you see the Pact for the Future?

It's looking positively. The Pact is very good, it outlines how subregional governments and cities can work, and it opens areas where we as civil society can have collaboration with local leaders as they go forward. It has a lot of foresight in terms of what's necessary to do for the future as we try to fulfil the responsibilities and opportunities of creating sustainable urban places.



Eugenie L. Birch

What are your main conclusions of the UCLG Congress?

The content of the meetings was excellent. I'd like to add a moment of praise for the leadership of Emilia Saiz, UCLG Secretary-General, because she has brought UCLG to new levels in these difficult times with COVID-19 and conflicts and trying to address climate change. But she and the UCLG executive board have successfully defined burning issues of the day and are working to address them.

What are the next steps for the General Assembly of Partners?

We are all looking to a couple of things, the two big megatrends: rapid urbanization and addressing climate change in ways that address issues of population in cities and in general. We are looking forward to the Summit for the Future, where we will lay the foundation for a post-2030 agenda. We know we have a lot of work to do to perfect our work on SDG11 as well as related goals.

INTERVIEW

TOWN HALL ON CARING SYSTEMS

Greg Munro
Director, Cities Alliance

“The time has come for local government”

“Caring Systems” is the Policy Paper which resulted from the Town Hall process, an space for dialogue between internationally organized civil society and the political leadership of the local and regional governments constituency. Cities Alliance is one of the leading organizations which presented the conclusions at the UCLG World Congress and Summit of World Leaders. The Town Hall process was also supported by Public Services International, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, the Civil Society Action Committee and the Universal Health Coverage 2030. The final document is available [here](#).

Greg Munro is the Director of Cities Alliance, a partnership hosted by UNOPS, which seeks to address the challenges of urban poverty and informality, particularly in secondary cities. Based in Brussels, Cities Alliance works globally as well as through country programmes. Before joining Cities Alliance in 2021, he served the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) in London as Secretary-General, supporting local democracy and decentralization in the 54 Commonwealth nations.

What is your view on the Town Hall process and its progress so far? Especially on your topic, caring systems?

We led the Caring Systems Town Hall Process, and it was very inclusive, broad stakeholder consultation including civil society. The consultation process was good. We then took it into a plenary at the Congress and got reflections from political and society leaders. Yesterday, we spoke to the General Assembly.

All these things feed into the Pact for the Future. This is my third Congress and the great strength I see in it is the awareness amongst local and regional government leaders that they are also global leaders and part of the multilateral system. They need to help heal and lead the world as part of the multilateral system. That's the great strength of this congress.

This year, there is a particular energy. As the closest leaders to the people, local governments talked about a whole new ecosystem for local government, where there is a new social contract between local governments and communities. In caring systems, communities are enabled to take decisions on their own lives and not just be passive recipients. Local governments enable the marginalized and most vulnerable to take action and be included.

How do you see the Pact for the Future?

I think it's great, I feel very good about it. Yesterday, I took a photograph of the whole assembly and sent it to my nephew. I told him, “This is the local government version of the United Nations, a version of the multilateral system, which is local government.” The Pact is putting local government politicians in a position where they are part of the multilateral system.

What are your main conclusions of the Congress?

It has been an amazing progress over the years. “The time has come for local government”, that's the headline for this year. I think it is time for local governments to step up and be part of the global multilateral movement.

What are the next steps for your organization?

As Cities Alliance, we are not members of the UCLG. We work across the world serving poor people in cities. At UCLG, we want to bring the voice of the most vulnerable and most marginalized to the table. They must be central to anything that happens going forward, and that's my role. We are always here because of that: We bring the urban poverty angle into these UCLG conferences, and we succeeded this year as well. One of the main things is we must build from the bottom up and we must include the most vulnerable and most marginalized.



Greg Munro



Andreas Wolter, Mayor of Cologne

“Local and regional governments must urgently move from overconsumption of natural resources to the protection of biodiversity, oceans, land, subsoil and atmosphere, as current production and consumption are destructive and totally unsustainable.”

Lee Jang-woo, Mayor of Daejeon

“We will seek ways to make the global village more prosperous and advance sustainable development.”

Carola Gunnarsson, Mayor of Sala

“We, local and regional governments, are closest to the people as their lives are directly influenced by our decisions. Peace, democracy, gender equality and inclusion are imperative.”

Emilio Jatón, Mayor of Santa Fe

“More than ever, we have to be absolutely responsible for every action we take.”

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