

MUNICIPAL *times.*

BARCELONA, 23 FEBRUARY 2024

ENGLISH VERSION

ISSUE
NO.12

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

 [urbanjournalism.institute/
municipaltimes](http://urbanjournalism.institute/municipaltimes)

ACTIONING LOCAL CARING



The launch of three pilot UCLG facilities instruments was the core of the discussion during the fourth day of the 2024 UCLG retreat. After a moment for “Thinking Big,” which set the stage for the introduction of these instruments,” the Local4Action, Women, and Caring Systems Facilities were kicked off in different sessions where participants mapped characteristics, objectives, synergies, and potential contributions to impact the global agenda from the local level.

The UCLG Facilities will be essential to trigger change, strengthening the network’s efforts to bring critical political local agendas to the forefront and reshape development global action. They represent UCLG’s contribution to the SDG Rescue Plan and respond to a context of interlinked crises. They will play into the network’s strengths by bringing together UCLG leadership, partners, coalitions, and different work teams.

Secretary General of UCLG, **Emilia Saiz**, said, “Our strength lies in spaces like this, connecting one area with another so that all can communicate, creating transversal efforts. The Facilities are new instruments fed by all our talents and initiatives, empowering those already working and creating mission-driven objectives.”

Participants noted their expectations around the facilities in the first brainstorming session of the morning, including engagement, understanding of citizens, dreaming big, connection, sharing, co-learning, implementation focus and inclusivity. “Contribute with your experience and align what you are doing,” moderator Sara Hoeflich encouraged everyone.

The session on the UCLG Caring Systems Facility started with an exercise encouraging participants to share their different meanings for “care” to bring a

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new layer to the discussion, understanding care as a value to base policies and addressing the people who deliver and need care. Some answers were empathy, love, women, protection, work, responsibility and leaving no one behind.

Care systems have emerged as a central focus of the agenda of UCLG. Care has been integral to developing and adopting the Pact for the Future of Humanity in the 7th UCLG World Congress held in Daejeon, Korea, in 2022.

The UCLG Caring Systems Facility aims to be a transformative force, consolidating and amplifying efforts to bring care to the forefront of global discourse and an open space that can bring together the UCLG ecosystem and the partners advancing the care agenda. The Facility advocates for a paradigm shift in the discourse surrounding care. It asserts that a shift towards a broader city- and region-wide perspective is imperative to build a just and sustainable world.

Lorena Zárate, Co-Founder and Member of the Support Team of the Global Platform for the Right to the City, opened the discussion by exploring the meaning of care within urban and regional contexts. She stressed that “taking care of life is essential.” Moving towards a city of care requires changes in three fundamental elements: the physical environment, the political sphere, and the economy.

Nicolas You, Executive Director of the Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation, drew upon submissions to the 6th Guangzhou Award to illuminate the primary pathways cities employ to promote care. He noted that over one-third of the shortlisted initiatives for the award were care-related, marking the first time in the Awards’ history that one topic dominated. He further illustrated his point with examples from Bogotá, Bontang, São Paulo, and Gwangju.

Continuing the discussion, **Ana Moreno**, Technical Secretary of the Global Alliance for Care, underscored how the Alliance’s multistakeholder, open and flexible platform could provide a solid foundation for the UCLG Caring Systems Facility. This includes co-creation and collaborative approaches to capacity building, research, and advocacy. She also invited UCLG and its partners to bring the care and territorial dimension to the Alliance as one of the most relevant dimensions needed to put care at the centre and to influence the global and multilateral next cycle of agreements.

Echoing previous speakers, **Jordi Vaquer**, Secretary General of Metropolis, stressed that the “political moment has come to put care at the centre.” He elaborated on how the Metropolis’ Care Campaign has gained momentum under the political leadership of women mayors who have prioritised care. He further stressed that no one-size-fits-all approach to incorporating care in different regions exists, but Metropolis members work together to exchange good practices.

Yves Cabannes, Emeritus Professor of Development Planning, University College London, highlighted the relationship between participatory democracy and caring systems. He stressed the importance of adopting a care-based approach in urban policymaking to strengthen local democracy. Cabannes emphasised the potential of participatory budgeting in including

communities in decision-making at the local level. “We need more participatory democracy if we want policies on care,” he concluded.

Addressing the importance of collaboration between places, **Tom Mitchell**, Executive Director of the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), highlighted that research can serve as foresight and urged the Facility to be “an opportunity to unite and bring people together.”

Philippe Malaisé, Deputy Secretary General of INTERCO-CFDT & PSI, highlighted the importance of recognising the professional care workers whom the local government predominantly employs. He underscored that “by improving the workers’ lives, we can improve the services provided to the whole of society.”

Finally, **Carlos de Freitas**, Special Advisor of FMDV, noticed that transforming care into institutions is a complex challenge, especially concerning finance. He highlighted, “When it comes to finance, we need to think about the care economy and the social economy.” He suggested that “localisation is a new form of globalisation.”

UCLG’s Caring Systems Facility has the potential to consolidate efforts and lead in putting the care agenda within localisation action and policy-making. With collaborative efforts and a commitment to transformative action, the vision of a caring world can be realised, where the principles of care permeate every aspect of society, fostering greater well-being and resilience for all.



LOCAL4ACTION FACILITY: A HUB FOR MUNICIPAL COLLECTIVE ACTION



Localisation has been recognised as essential for achieving the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda and meaningful and lasting progress. It involves adapting the global goals to the local context, empowering communities to take ownership, and recognising that solutions to complex challenges often originate at the grassroots level, where individuals and communities are intimately familiar with their needs, strengths and priorities.

Local and regional governments are showing the transformative power of localising the SDGs worldwide, and the facility aims to accompany and multiply localisation efforts. **Berry Vrbanovic**, Mayor of Kitchener and Co-President of UCLG, pointed out how local action is acknowledged as a crucial accelerator towards the SDGs. He remarked, “Today is a new beginning for mainstreaming localisation. Innovative local action has been and continues to be at the forefront of achieving the SDGs. This facility represents a renewed collective space to enhance the vision and action of our members, leaving no one behind.”

Leire Pajín, President of the Spanish Sustainable Development Network (REDS), underscored the need to build, strengthen and measure the impact within the new facility, including data at the local and territorial levels. “We require territorial and local indicators and disseminate our

experiences beyond local borders. There are so many networks, but we are not all connected. We need a continuous and permanent space to be more efficient,” she stressed. Sharing insights from her network, Pajín emphasised the importance of active listening, collaborative problem-solving, and creating ecosystems in cities that work towards the same goal.

In an insightful address, **Mehmet Duman**, Secretary General of UCLG-MEWA, shared the progress of his members in the localisation of the 2030 Agenda localisation, highlighting the importance of the UCLG Local4Action Hubs. He emphasised the significance of addressing culture and heritage within the SDGs in his region, innovating with an SDG18 to address culture and heritage, citing examples from Tehran and Türkiye.

Shi Qi, from the Center for International Friendship of Cities, Xi’an Municipal Foreign Affairs Office, shared that one of the challenges in his region is the ageing population. He highlighted initiatives targeting youth and cross-cultural communication by designing SDG courses for universities. “Big data, digitalisation and international cooperation are also key to allowing more young people to participate in projects and localise the SDGs.”

Federica Bordelot, Director of Policy and Impact at the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), emphasised the urgency of the Local4Action Facility. “With only 17 per cent of the SDGs on track, we need to do more. This is the moment for launching this new instrument, this new tool, as a space for collective actions,” she noted. Bordelot hoped the facility would enable members to work more collectively and in partnership with multi-level governance institutions, “driven by active localisation and involving all members to re-think and re-interpret the SDGs.”

Lastly, **Rebecca Ochong**, Associate Director of Global Affairs and Advocacy at Habitat for Humanity, underscored the critical importance of localising the SDGs, particularly in addressing housing challenges. “With 2.8 billion people not having access to adequate housing, and 1.1 billion still living in informal settlements,” initiatives such as the global advocacy campaign “Home Equals” strive to leverage global advocacy to advance SDG localisation in informal settlements worldwide, where many SDG indicators are yet to be met.

During the session, participants were invited to reflect on how UCLG, as a world organisation, contributes to the localisation of the SDGs. In the interactive exercise, participants shared which SDGs they worked most with and what priorities they saw for the Local4Action Facility. These included a whole-society approach, making localisation more visible, telling the story differently, consistency, and linking actions to the SDGs with appropriate language. “This is the facility’s goal: Get everything we are doing together, coordinate better, and discover what we are already doing to advance with active localisation,” the moderators concluded.

UCLG-WOMEN FACILITY: SUPPORT WOMEN WITH BUDGETS AND PUBLIC POLICIES

One of the liveliest and most moving sessions of the Retreat was the kick-off of the Women's Facility at UCLG. "We have been pushing feminist visions and embracing them, going from rhetoric to practice. [...] We have a narrative already and know that we need to include these topics, but we need to put them into practice. Suppose there is something that UCLG knows how to do; it is putting different actors together locally," said **Ana Falú**, UCLG UBUNTU Advisor and Professor Emeritus of the National University of Córdoba.

She suggested local reviews of SDG 5 on gender equality, a crosscutting goal prerequisite for all other SDGs. She wished for at least 100 cities and UCLG members to discuss gender policies in their territories. "We are not against men, but against the old hierarchies and power distribution. We need to question everyday actions and share answers to questions like why, in Latin America, where the feminist movement is so strong, only 16 per cent of local governments are led by women."

María Fernanda Espinosa, UCLG UBUNTU Advisor and Executive Director of GWL Voices for Change and Inclusion, affirmed that women should use their powers to improve multilevel governance. "We need a strategy to fight anti-rights narratives and use relatable, transformative tools." On top of the triple crisis of inequalities, conflict, and climate, she blamed the crisis of imagination for many of today's problems. "But in the local sphere, we can be imaginative to achieve this transformation."

Paola Pabón, Prefect of Pichincha, explained that localising efforts to land benefits in the territory is essential. "We need to ensure that feminist issues are included in local budgets and place women and feminist policies at the centre of municipal governments. As a mayor, it is essential that women can count on us and that we offer services devoted to them. We must support them with budget and public policies." She also said that those doing feminist policies are usually female mayors, but "it cannot only be done by women."

In the following exercise, participants received different avatar personalities that faced a gender-related challenge and helped them to overcome it. This inspired lively discussion and many ideas for and from the male and female perspective – and any perspective that does not relate to the traditional binary gender system. Participants also expressed the importance of mutual learning and sharing what works and doesn't.



In the panel discussion, **Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi**, Secretary General, UCLG-ASPAC, shared that in the Asia-Pacific region, the share of women in local governments is currently 15.38 per cent. She explained that some progress has been made compared to previous percentages, but it still falls short. "We have been discussing quote systems, but they are insufficient," she said. Instead, she recommends a combination of advocacy, extensive campaigns, capacity building, peer-to-peer learning and mentoring for female elected leaders.

Clare Hart, Vice-President of Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole, suggested looking at four dimensions related to gender equality in the UCLG-Women Facility: economic participation, education, health and



survival, and political empowerment. “We need to place gender at every single level in everything we do, and we need a measuring tool, which seems to me to be the most important thing,” she said, quoting examples from Barcelona and Bogotá that managed to bring down gender violence through effective public policies and education plans for boys and men with a “calm line” phone number for working through violent surges.

Among much applause, **Laura Neuman**, Senior Advisor at The Carter Center, stated that municipal bodies worldwide only employ 36 per cent of women, typically in lower positions and working on gender and social protection rather than defence, finance, or the economy. She affirmed that women need more capacity-building, skills, family support,

information, respect, and safety. “I want to emphasise peer support, mentoring and allyship. With these three ingredients, we will go a long way to make the feminist municipal movement successful.”

Emilia Saiz, UCLG Secretary General, closed the session by underlining that all three pilot UCLG Facilities are closely interconnected. For the Women’s Facility, she suggested thinking about creative and evidence-based research, innovative services and local-to-local dialogues, training and establishing partnerships, and monitoring, for example, through voluntary subnational reviews of gender policies. “When will we have a Secretary General of the UN who is a woman?” This question from the audience summed up the spirit of the session.

LOCALISATION TRENDS: PAVING THE WAY FOR SDGs IMPLEMENTATION



The successful implementation of SDGs and UCLG's Pact for the Future of Humanity is highly dependent on their localisation. As we progress towards 2030, it is increasingly vital to consider the localised trends crucial for achieving the SDGs. Factors such as demographics, migration or artificial intelligence can significantly impact the processes at the local level. Recognising and addressing these trends is vital for every local and regional government. The session aimed to provide insights and inspire the constituency's work and advocacy initiatives towards achieving the SDGs.

Billy Cobbett, UCLG UBUNTU, has set the scene by highlighting that "localisation cannot be a series of projects, but to truly implement the SDGs at all levels of government requires the systematic changing of policies, of priorities, of behaviour, and budget." Localising the SDGs requires collaboration between several tiers of government based on subsidiarity and shared responsibility.

Carlos Martínez, Mayor of Soria and UCLG Special Envoy for the New Urban Agenda, sees the 2030 Agenda as a revolutionary shift towards "putting the well-being of both people and the planet at the centre." He emphasises the need for a clear roadmap and strategy, emphasising the importance of listening to citizens and building consensus to overcome conflicts.

Voicing the perspectives from the African continent, **Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi**, Secretary General of UCLG Africa, highlights the diverging

demographic trends across continents, particularly in Africa, where a youthful population contrasts with ageing societies elsewhere. This demographic trend brings an imbalance of wealth, leading to increased migration. He emphasised the importance of building consensus amid growing political tensions. He also stressed the role of UCLG as the platform where members can "move beyond their differences and build upon solutions."

In discussions on demography and human mobility, speakers emphasised the importance of integrating migrants into local communities and economies. **Clare Hart**, Vice-President Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole, highlights the positive contributions of migrants and the need for inclusive practices. She boldly states that "international migration is a pact of life. Closing our eyes is not an option. Agenda 2030 is a radical way forward, and we need its localisation." Echoing the message from other speakers, Sashini Gomez of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) underscored the complex nature of migration and the role of local governments as frontline responders to migration challenges.

Pierre Martinot-Lagarde from the International Labour Organization (ILO) discussed the unequal access to jobs in the face of technological advancements like artificial intelligence and robotisation. He called for global collaboration and transition strategies to address these challenges.

In addressing accessibility, youth issues, and the future of work, speakers like Bheke Stofile, Co-President of UCLG and President of SALGA, and Juan Pablo Poletti, Mayor of Santa Fe, emphasised the importance of inclusive communication and tangible actions to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities. Poletti, who took the spot just sixty days ago, shared examples of the actions his team has already taken to make Santa Fe more accessible. Stofile argued for the need for local and regional governments to deliver innovative approaches to emerging technologies to improve communication and trust between communities and institutions.

Finally, **Thiago Hérick de Sá**, from the World Health Organization (WHO), stressed the need for age-friendly environments to support healthy ageing populations. Among the key achievements of the past years was that "across the world, more people are living longer than ever before (but not necessarily healthier)." He urged UCLG members to join the global community building age-friendly environments.

Navigating the localisation trends requires a holistic approach that recognises the interconnectedness of global challenges and the need for inclusive and collaborative solutions. By prioritising empowerment, inclusivity, and innovation at the local level, the world can move closer to building a sustainable future for all.

THE LOCAL BUILDING BLOCKS FOR PEACE



Building on the UCLG Future Envisioning Exercise on the Building Blocks for Peace from January 2024, the third day of the 2024 UCLG Retreat saw a passionate and empathetic debate about how local governments can contribute to peacekeeping efforts. The panel was composed of members of UCLG and partners who contributed to the peacebuilding agenda of the World Organization, including through the Future Envisioning Exercise, intending to contribute to the peacebuilding aspect of the United Nations Pact for the Future and the United Nations New Agenda for Peace.

Aldo di Piazza, Health Advisor at the Lampedusa e Linosa Comune, started by sharing his experience from a Mediterranean island that receives 110,000 migrants and refugees annually. “Getting together with other stakeholders is the first step, and solutions are complicated. But considering the harsh realities, it is beneficial to work together on a more human approach to people who risk their lives by fleeing their places of origin.”

The Mayor of San José and Co-president of UCLG, **Johnny Araya**, gave an inspiring talk about how Costa Rica declared peace to the world many years ago. “We want a country that has more teachers than soldiers,” he quoted the founders of this idea. Costa Rica is now the only country in the world with no army. “We have declared perpetual, active, non-armed neutrality, and we understand that peace is not only the absence of war, but also harmony, coexistence with social justice, and equal opportunities.” He explained that peace in cities is not only broken by conflict or war; it is also broken by social violence, crime, or drug trafficking. “The most sustainable answer to face these challenges is not a police force, but it is prevention. We need to have a model of society that is more inclusive to fight poverty and inequality.” Local governments can often help contribute to a model focusing on prevention by fostering inclusion and citizen participation.



Kelsey Paul Shantz, Co-Facilitator of Peace in Our Cities: *“Solutions and approaches to significantly reduce severe violence already exist. Cities are central in achieving such reduction and require access to information.”*



Laura Neuman, Senior Advisor at the Carter Center: *“The more we think about multilateral organisations, the more we realise they need us.”*



Fabiana Goyeneche, Director of International Relations of Montevideo: *“Not everyone is represented in this discussion about peace, so we need to continue working on this.”*



Alba Barnusell, Mayor of Granollers and Vice President of Mayors for Peace: *“Our duty as mayors is to do what we can locally in our cities, working for peace.”*



Allison Curtis, Deputy Executive Director of Strong Cities Network: *“Over 3 billion people will participate in elections in the next two years. Local governments have a crucial role in both preventing and responding to hate, extremism and violence.”*



Renske Steenbergen, Deputy Director of VNG: *“We need to address not just conflict but also the availability of resources to ensure that local communities are involved and can access the necessary resources.”*



Carola Gunnarsson, Special Envoy for Freedom, Solidarity and Fighting Violence against Local Political Leaders, UCLG Vice President for Europe, Vice President of SALAR: *“Every attack on human rights is an attack on our safe societies. Talking about peace is not just the absence of war and armed force; it is democracy, human rights, gender equality, freedom.”*

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES THROUGH MIGRATION SOLIDARITY



The first Human Mobility Policy Lab of the UCLG Retreat, attended by a wide range of actors with profound life experiences or involvement in migration-related issues, served as a platform to explore the complexities of migration and our collective responsibility towards it. At the heart of the discussion was the Lampedusa Charter, an innovative framework that initiated a global conversation led by governments worldwide on the issues faced by Lampedusa and similar regions.

The Charter, developed over two years of consultations and extensive peer-learning sessions involving numerous local governments, incorporates principles designed to defend human dignity, focusing on treating migrants, both living and deceased. Each principle outlined in the Charter establishes five working priorities, laying the groundwork for concrete action and implementation.

Carlo de Marco, Secretary General of the Border Towns and Islands Network, emphasised the vital importance of ensuring dignity for all individuals, regardless of their origins or migration routes, and highlighted the difficult task faced by Lampedusa in providing dignified treatment for arrivals, often traumatised by their journey. The sobering reality of dealing with fatalities underscores the urgency of the matter, prompting a re-evaluation of intervention strategies and governmental authority limitations.

In view of **Wajdi Aydi**, of the Association Afrique Intelligence, there is a need for a holistic approach to migration based on dignity, freedom, and

dialogue principles. The journey towards dignified treatment of migrants requires collaboration among diverse actors, including local governments, civil society, and international organisations.

The Policy Lab deepened into the challenges that Local and Regional Governments face, opportunities for dignified migration, and strategies for collaboration with civil society.

The stakeholder perspectives highlighted the need for improved coordination, knowledge-sharing, and inclusive policies prioritising human rights. From addressing mourning processes to improving access to services and fostering inclusive citizenship, participants emphasised the importance of collective efforts to navigate the complexities of migration.

In the words of **Emilia Saiz**, the discussion on migration transcends mere acts of solidarity; it speaks to the fundamental fabric of our society. The work carried out in collaboration with Lampedusa serves as a ray of hope, a testament to our shared humanity, and a call to action for global leaders to prioritise dignity in all migration-related endeavours.

The journey towards dignified migration is filled with challenges; we can pave the way for a more inclusive and compassionate world for all individuals, regardless of origin or circumstance.

REINFORCING LOCAL GOVERNANCE

To advance local governance worldwide, UCLG and The Hague Academy for Local Governance have forged a partnership to empower local authorities and reinforce democratic institutions across the globe.

The primary goals of the collaboration include providing training opportunities tailored for UCLG members and equipping local government officials with the necessary skills and knowledge to tackle contemporary challenges effectively. This involves offering special rates for training courses, developing curricula rooted in real-world examples, and facilitating staff collaboration in training programs. Additionally, the partnership seeks to amplify the visibility of training materials through joint branding efforts, promoting engagement within the local governance community.

Furthermore, the agreement underscores the shared commitment of both organisations to promote good governance, democratic values, and sustainable development at the local level, by leveraging their collective expertise and resources, UCLG and The Hague Academy aim to foster inclusive societies and contribute significantly to building resilient communities worldwide.



STRENGTHENING RESEARCH TOWARDS THE WORLD SOCIAL SUMMIT

UCLG and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) have formalised their commitment to collaborative efforts in advancing research, knowledge-sharing, and capacity-building initiatives to empower local and regional governments in achieving the objectives of the 2030 Agenda and beyond. This commitment was solidified by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during the Retreat, underscoring their joint dedication to supporting the achievement of the SDGs.

Tom Mitchell, Executive Director of IIED, expressed his enthusiasm about the partnership, emphasising the substantial synergies between UCLG and IIED. He highlighted the potential for leveraging each organisation’s networks and resources to address pressing global issues such as housing justice and climate change. He also stressed, “bringing together the networks and power of UCLG but also fostering that in partnership with research and evidence in such a way that allows creating change.”

The collaboration between the two organisations is rooted in years of fruitful partnership across various projects, focusing on promoting urban and territorial equality, notably in housing rights. Relevant initiatives include the recent GOLD VI Report on Urban and Territorial Equality, the Tomorrow’s Cities peer-to-peer learning initiative, and the report on the role of local and regional governments in localising SDG 11.1 on housing and essential services.

UCLG and IIED aspire to significantly influence international agenda-setting processes through this strategic partnership, including pivotal events such as the Summit for the Future in 2024 and the forthcoming World Social Summit in 2025.



THE MARKETPLACE

The UCLG Marketplace, held on the morning of the third day of the 2024 UCLG Retreat, was a vibrant hub for diverse initiatives dedicated to advancing sustainability. Partners representing various networks enthusiastically presented innovative actions and products, from localised policy solutions to expansive global alliances, all reflecting a commitment to the principles outlined in the Pact for the Future.

This dynamic and interactive session went beyond traditional presentations, incorporating “speed dating” sessions that allowed participants to exchange best practices and tools swiftly. Such engagement empowered attendees to tailor their experience based on their interests and needs.

With 19 partners showcasing their projects, the Marketplace was full of energy and exemplified the transformative potential of partnerships and collective action in driving progress towards the SDGs.



A NEW STUDY ON LOCAL FOOD SECURITY



UCLG, in partnership with the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, announced the publication of “Rising to the challenges of food insecurity: Initiatives by local and regional governments,” a recent study on innovative strategies to combat food insecurity.

Prepared by the non-profit organisation “Let’s Food” and supported by the World Sustainable Urban Food Centre of Valencia (CEMAS), the study highlights ten exemplary practices adopted by local and regional governments across the globe. These practices include the establishment of a “Common Food Fund” in Montpellier, France; support for agrotourism and the creation of agricultural jobs in Chefchaouen, Morocco; and the implementation of agroforestry and school gardens in Antananarivo, Madagascar, to meet the nutritional needs of children, among others.

The study also offers valuable insights and recommendations for governments and international institutions to redouble efforts to establish sustainable food systems that promote community resilience, social justice, and overall well-being. Moreover, the publication underscores the importance of collaboration with civil society actors in uplifting disadvantaged groups and ensuring food security for all.

CAN BATLLÓ, A PILOT ON THE COMMONS



Nestled in Barcelona's Bordeta neighbourhood, Can Batlló is a testament to grassroots revitalisation and community empowerment. Once a 19th-century textile factory, this historic space has undergone a remarkable transformation, evolving from a symbol of industry to a vibrant hub of citizen self-management. Managed through a unique partnership between the public and the community, Can Batlló has redefined its purpose, offering an array of amenities and activities that cater to diverse interests and needs. It is a dynamic centre for social interaction and innovation, from event spaces and community libraries to repair workshops and housing cooperatives.

During the 2024 UCLG Retreat, participants had the opportunity to embark on a field visit to Can Batlló, experiencing first-hand the principles of public-community partnership. Under the theme of "public-community partnership to manage social spaces and basic services with civil society," the visit provided insights into collaborative governance models and community-led initiatives.

The visit coincides with current efforts to transform the relationship between society and the global commons. Access to fundamental services is recognised as essential to community well-being. At a time when the importance of green public spaces, digital rights and clean environments is growing, Can Batlló stands as a beacon illustrating the role of the commons in fostering community participation and alternative governance models.

The activity continues UCLG's previous efforts related to the Global Commons, such as the Future Envisioning Exercise on Reclaiming the Commons and UCLG's GOLD VI report on "[Pathways to Urban and Territorial Equality](#)."

If you couldn't join the guided visit, we invite you to walk the city and explore Can Batlló!

For more information, visit their website: <https://canbatllo.org>

HUMAN RIGHTS ARE VITAL TO ACHIEVING THE SDGS

Philippe Rio, Mayor of Grigny and Co-President of UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights (UCLG-CSIPDHR), highlighted the importance of human rights in achieving the 2030 Agenda. For this, he explained the contribution of the global campaign *10, 100, and 1000 Human Rights Cities and Territories by 2030*, undertaken by UCLG-CSIPDHR.

The mayor emphasised the urgent need to embrace a new narrative that prioritises human rights and ensures their vitality within our cities. Central to this vision is the commitment to climate and social justice, thereby creating a more inclusive and equitable environment for all. He further stressed: **"We need to guarantee the right to the city for all."**



What's on Today?

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THE POWER OF WE

The final day of the 2024 UCLG Retreat revolves around the Power of We, which unites the entire network. Throughout the morning, UCLG Sections, Committees, Working Groups and other mechanisms will assess and communicate their needs, moving from setting the week's agenda to ensuring that the network's priorities resonate and amplify.

From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the "Acting for Humanity Unites Us" session will bring together all network nodes to discuss collaborative and networked approaches and cross-cutting efforts to ensure the agenda of the World Organization reaches all corners.



RETREAT PLAYLIST

What would life be without music? You can now listen to the UCLG Retreat playlist, with songs selected by the participants, from Nat King Cole to Queen, and speaking of queens, how could we not mention Tina Turner? Pop, rap, rock or forró, a diverse playlist with "Shout" by Tears for Fears, reminding us of the call to action, emotional honesty, and the fight against injustice we draw from this Retreat.

Have a safe trip back home!

You can access it here:



X SAYS

XPANDING ACTION

The Factory of the Future is once again setting its gears in motion, and as a result, we have more consolidated alliances and stronger partnerships. It has been two intense days of necessary debates because issues brought to the table, such as #peace, #migration, #care and #feminism, should never be silenced.

During the 2024 Retreat, X has been filled under the umbrella of #UCLGMeets, with initiatives, memorandums and messages reflecting our efforts to make our cities more just, inclusive and peaceful. The focus has been on critical global issues, from redefining care systems and participatory democracy to addressing human mobility. We do not doubt that this collaborative effort will create a transformative and sustainable future.

With the #Marketplace, we had the opportunity to connect. We have also shared our views on the topics we have discussed, what care means to each other and what would change if it were placed at the centre of local public action and urban life.

The role of local and regional governments is again being defended, and with good reason, because the "local governments act as the legs for a body. It will carry you to your final destination," and we still have many goals to achieve.

In this section, we talk about the voices of those who are part of the UCLG family, voices that come from all over the world, so the last tweet we quote to close these last two days will be in French:

"Unies, nous sommes une force incroyable pour créer des villes plus justes et fortes"



CREDITS

(of all three issues during the 2024 UCLG Retreat)

Content: OnCities2030 and the Urban Journalism Institute

Design: El Viento Media Lab

Photographs: © UCLG/Mark Schardan