

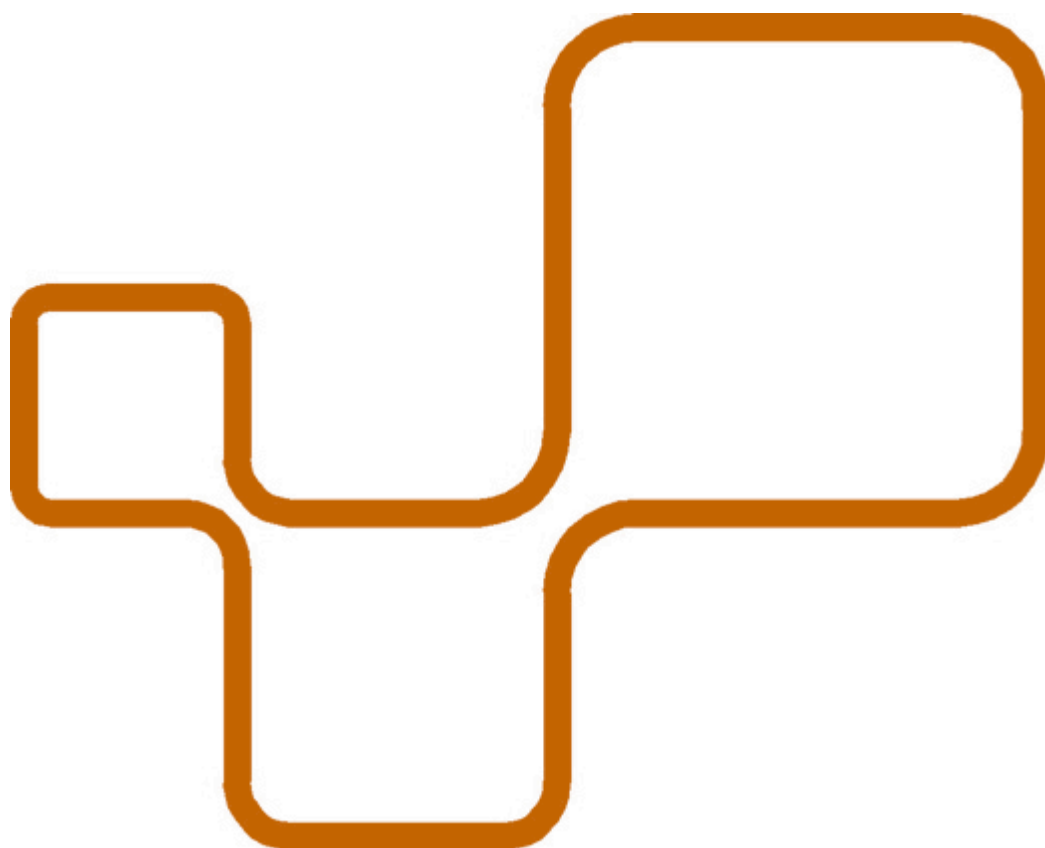


**RABAT  
2013**

1-4 OCTOBER

**World Summit  
of Local and Regional Leaders**  
4<sup>th</sup> UCLG Congress

**IMAGINE SOCIETY,  
BUILD DEMOCRACY**



## **Presentation Note**

# UCLG: THE GLOBAL NETWORK OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) **represents and defends the interests of local and regional governments** on the world stage, regardless of the size of the communities they serve.

The mission of UCLG is to be the **united voice and world advocate of democratic local self-government**, promoting its values, objectives and interests, through cooperation between local governments, and within the wider international community.

UCLG is present in **155 of the 192 United Nation member states**, representing both cities and local government associations.

Over **1,000 cities and 112 national associations** are direct members of UCLG.

The **Presidency** of UCLG is composed of Mr. Kadir Topbaş, President, Mayor of Istanbul (Turkey), and **5 Co-Presidents**: Antonio Costa, Mayor of Lisbon, Portugal; Johnny Araya, Mayor of San José, Costa Rica; Wan Qingliang, Vice-President of the Association of Chinese Mayors; Muchadeyi Masunda, Mayor of Harare, Zimbabwe; Ilmur Metsin, Kasan, Russia; Ted Ellis, Mayor of Bluffton, United States, is the Treasurer of UCLG.

All members of UCLG and our partners meet every three years on the occasion of the **UCLG Congress**, also the **Summit of Local and Regional Leaders**.

**UCLG and the United Nations :** In May 2011, the President of UCLG, Mr. Kadir Topbaş, personally met the Secretary General of the United Nations and requested a special status for UCLG before the General Assembly of this institution. In April 2012, the Secretary General of the UN, Ban Ki-Moon, welcomed Local and Regional Authorities to the headquarters of the United Nations where they were able to present their key messages with view to the Rio+20 Summit.

## **Rio+20**

During the World Summit (Rio+20) in June 2012, the Final Document recognized, for the first time, the key role of local and regional governments in the international development agenda.

**United Nations process for the Post-2015 Development Agenda :** In July 2012, Ban Ki-Moon nominated Mr. Kadir Topbaş as member of the High Level Panel on the post-2015 process, a recognition for the role of local and regional authorities in the Millennium Development Goals. In September 2012, during the meetings of the High Level Panel, the President of UCLG called for recognition of local and regional authorities in the Post-2015 process. The HLP will give its conclusions and proposals on the process in September 2013 during the General Assembly of the United Nations.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

- ▶ **City-based activities account for more than 75% of world energy consumption** and 80% of global carbon dioxide.
- ▶ 2007: for the first time, the world's **urban population is equal to the world's rural population**.
- ▶ In 2010, the world's population reached 6.85 billion and is increasing by 75 million people each year. **60% of the world's population will live in urban areas by 2030.**
- ▶ More than **1.2 billion people** - one in every five on Earth - survive on **less than \$1 a day**. In urban areas in Africa 40% of households live below the poverty line, in Latin America this figure is 25%.
- ▶ In 1950, there was only one city with a population of over 10 million inhabitants: New York. By 2015, **23 cities will be over 10 million, 19 of them in developing countries.**
- ▶ In developed countries, **cities generate over 80% of national economic output**
- ▶ Sanitation and health are curcial issues in Africa where **less than 20% of households are connected to piped water** and where water costs are, on average, higher than in any other region of the world.
- ▶ Over 6,000 local governments have implemented **Local Agenda 21** strategies to develop projects to improve the quality of life with for local citizens.
- ▶ Although they are responsible for addressing development problems, UCLG estimates that **less than 1% of development funding is channeled through local governments.**

## THE SUMMIT AT A GLANCE

- ▶ The World Summit will take place from **1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> October 2013 in Rabat, Morocco**
- ▶ For the first time in history, **the African continent will host a UCLG World Congress**
- ▶ The World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders is the **4<sup>th</sup> UCLG Congress** following the Founding Congress in Paris in 2004, the Jeju Summit in 2007 and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congress in Mexico City in 2010
- ▶ The Summit is organized by UCLG and hosted by the **City of Rabat and the Moroccan Government**
- ▶ The World Summit will be an opportunity to celebrate the **one hundredth anniversary of the municipal movement**, which was born in 1913
- ▶ Over **3,000 participants** from over **100 countries** will attend the Summit, including local and regional leaders and representatives from international organisations and financial institutions along with partners from civil society and the public and private sector are expected at the Summit
- ▶ The Summit is a **great assembly of local and regional elected representatives from across the globe**
- ▶ The theme for this Summit is, **"Imagine Society, Build Democracy"**, incorporating topics such as fostering wellbeing, managing diversity, new governance and dynamics of change and solidarity between territories
- ▶ The debates and exchanges will be structured into: **1 introductory plenary session, 4 thematic roundtables, 12 parallel sessions, 2 strategic plenaries.**
- ▶ Three statutory meetings of the UCLG Congress will be held at the Summit to define the strategic priorities of the World Organisation for the coming three years: the **Executive Bureau**, the **World Council** and the **General Assembly**.
- ▶ **Exhibition space "RABAT EXPO"** : A large space will be dedicated to the exhibition "RABAT EXPO". The exhibition will be made up of several pavilions hosted by UCLG partners including fund providers, international organisations, private sector partners and civil society associations. In this exhibition, agendas will be reserved for short speeches, parallel events and presentations of our partners' experiences of innovative projects.

## OBJECTIVES OF SUMMIT

- ▶ A unique occasion to define the vision and agenda of **cities and regions for the 21<sup>st</sup> century**
- ▶ An **ideal opportunity to** mobilise a large number of political decision makers at local, regional, national and global level
- ▶ Define the **strategy and international action** of local and regional authorities vis-à-vis the **strategic objectives of the international agenda** for development
- ▶ Define **concrete local actions and solutions** to global challenges
- ▶ Conduct an analysis on the implementation of the agenda approved during the Habitat II Conference in 1996 and **prepare the path toward the Habitat III Conference** in 2016
- ▶ Mobilize **the UCLG network to work toward an interactive, participatory and dynamic model**
- ▶ **Bring members of UCLG closer to the organisation's partner institutions.**
- ▶ UCLG members will take important steps in defining the strategic direction of the World Organisation and the renewal of **governing bodies of UCLG** for a mandate of three years
- ▶ This Summit will also see the renewal of the mandates of the **Committees and Working Groups** of UCLG

## THEMES OF THE SUMMIT

As the United Nations and the international community redefine the Millennium Development Goals for the next 15-20 years, local and regional authorities will come together to **define the agenda for cities and regions for the 21<sup>st</sup> century**.

There are many challenges for local and regional governments: ensuring **access to basic services**; building **plural societies** open to young people and innovation; promoting tolerance, solidarity and exchange; ensuring **gender equality** at political, economic and social level; reinforcing of the role of **culture** in our society – these issues should lead the actions of local and regional authorities

"Imagine society, build democracy", the main thread of the Summit, should fuel an **extended and permanent dialogue** between local and regional authorities with all partners – international organisations, development agencies, experts and practitioners – as well as with organization of civil society in order to **analyse and evaluate which development objectives** have been reached and jointly define new priorities.

The Summit will be a moment to **positively share and contribute** to shed light on the **innovative policies and programmes** that local and regional governments implement on a daily basis to address the key challenges they face. The plenaries and the workshops will therefore be privileged opportunities to exchange, reflect and present solutions.

The Summit will identify **possible objectives in the framework of the Post 2015 Development Goals** and prepare the way towards Habitat III, converting these priorities into **action frameworks** for the world organization.

# MAJOR CHALLENGES

## TACKLING THE MAJOR CHANGES OF OUR ERA FROM OUR CITIES AND REGIONS

**Analyse current and future challenges:** foreseeing the future impact of the current turmoil, in particular the political, economic, social and environmental crisis on the cities and territories in different regions of the world.

Are we facing irreversible ruptures or are they systematic adjustments?

**Reflect on the impact for local democracy:** retrace the contribution of the international municipal movement in the construction of local democracy throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and reflect on the issues for local democracy for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and take into account the impact of the “Arab Spring” and the attempts to recentralize certain regions.

What dimension should governance and democracy take in the debates on the Post 2015 Agenda and Habitat III?

## FOSTERING WELLBEING

**Innovate for an improved quality of life:** the improvement of local public services – health, education, housing, mobility, leisure – has greatly contributed to the improvement of our quality of life. However our societies are increasingly confronted with ever more insecurity – economic, social, environmental, cultural and in the area of food security. To respond to these evolutions, local and regional authorities, with their partners, innovate to combat insecurity (violence, exclusion), the response to changes in society (urbanisation, aging populations). Their innovation is helping ensure that our lifestyles and consumer habits evolve in terms of its impact on the environment, and that all citizens have the right to dignified life. Are these local policies contributing to reduce growing global uncertainty?

**Governance of basic services – presentation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Report of UCLG on Decentralisation and Local Democracy.** During the session will be presented conclusions from this report analysing the links between the quality of life and essential services. While there has undoubtedly been progress in access to services, inequalities persist and are, in some cases, have widened. If access to basic services is central to the debate on inequalities, shouldn't the governance of these services therefore be at the heart of the debate?

## STRENGTHENING SOLIDARITY AMONG TERRITORIES

The past decades have seen important changes with the transformation from **a rural to an urban world** and increased interrelations between territories. In the meantime, inequalities between territories within countries are growing: the implementation of national strategies with the participation of all actors is essential in order to ensure **coherence between sub-national levels of governance and national dynamics**.

Experience around the world shows that any change impacting people at local level challenges local and regional governments in their capacity to coordinate actions beyond a sector approach: it calls them to mobilize stakeholders, to address inclusive **growth and development**, and to interface with the other spheres of public governance for more efficiency.

This roundtable will address the following issues: migration and governance, food security, energy and mobility, transborder territories' issues.

## SUPPORTING NEW LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND DYNAMICS OF CHANGE

**Local governance, decentralization and democratization** are at the centre of international debates in the current context of political, economic and social transition.

Citizen action in the Mediterranean has triggered fundamental changes in the political and social landscape. The questioning of the systems of governance in this region will most likely have an impact and further inspire citizen action other regions of the world. With view to analyzing new governance and the dynamics of change that are being implemented throughout the world, particular attention will be given to local and regional governance in the Mediterranean and the lessons that can be learned internationally from this region on local democracy and decentralization in the world.

This thematic round-table will aim to identify **new social movements** and the **forms of social mobilization** (notably through social networks) have emerged, in particular Mediterranean since 2011. The thematic round-table will throw light on **new models of local governance and the role of civil society** that are taking place since the Arab Spring.

What are the expectations of citizen organisations, often mobilised, towards local authorities? How social movements are giving birth to new forms of governance and how local governments are adapting themselves?

## PROMOTING DIVERSITY

**Identify the different dimensions of diversity:** the concept of diversity will be examined in all its dimensions: political diversity (diverse forms of organising and representing residents of a city), social diversity (in socio-economic, educational, professional terms), ethnic and cultural diversity, gender diversity, inter-generational diversity, diversity relative to urban landscapes (constructed and natural), diversity of urban territories ("formal" city vs informal settlements; centre vs periphery).

**Evaluate diversity as a political opportunity.** Recognising and evaluating diversity, in its multiple dimensions through local and regional public policy can lead to the construction of cities that benefit from greater economic, social, cultural, political and territorial potential. The degree to which a city recognises its diversity is reflected, fundamentally, in the following aspects: (i) in the **political participation of all its residents** (women and men; the youth and the elderly; migrants and native; entrepreneurs and informal workers; households and organisations of informal settlements; cultural actors); (ii) in the priority given to **social policies** aiming to combat social and spacial exclusion (iii) in the running of **economic measures** that stimulate initiatives that generate spaces of trust for economic investment at various levels; (iv) in the **integrated planning that guarantees diverse and decentralized use of spaces**, public services and installations; (v) in the consideration given to **culture as a key factor** for human development, democratic governance and sustainable development.



## SHAPING THE URBAN FUTURE: THE FUTURE WE WANT

### POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

Following the 68<sup>th</sup> General Assembly session of the United Nations during which the analysis of the MDG will be presented and a first draft proposal on the future Development Agenda of the United Nations Post-2015, this plenary will seek to strengthen the dialogue between the international community and local and regional leaders to respond to different questions, in particular:

What objectives to give to this new Agenda? How to integrate the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Agenda whose principles were adopted in Rio+20? What objectives and priority targets should local and regional governments seek to integrate into this new Agenda? How to build a new global partnership bringing together all actors to ensure this process achieves its objectives?

### HABITAT III

Define the strategy of the organization of cities and regions in the framework of the Habitat III summit.

What type of consultation process in cooperation with UN Habitat? What type of development of our own agenda to present to Habitat III?

Habitat III is the 3rd Conference of the United Nations on Infrastructure and Sustainable Urban Development that will take place in 2016. The 4<sup>th</sup> UCLG Congress in Rabat will be an important step towards this large-scale urban meeting in 2016.

During Habitat II, local governments were recognised as major partners of UN-Habitat in the implementation of the Habitat agenda, this was also an important step in the recognition of local authority networks. During the General Assembly of Cities and Local Authorities organised in the framework of Habitat II in 1996, local authorities committed to constructing a "united voice of local governments and their associations" that led to the creation of United Cities and Local Governments in May 2004. This partnership between local authorities and UN Habitat has, over the past 20 years, expanded and been reinforced. Habitat III should be the opportunity to make a firm advancement in the relations between the United Nations and local governments, recognising them with a special status and including a more direct role and responsibilities with the governing bodies of UN Habitat. Habitat III will also be an occasion to consolidate the international movement of local and regional authorities, genuine political spokesperson for the international community.

