

# Policy Council: Right to the City and Inclusive Territories

## POLICY COUNCILLORS



Co-chair

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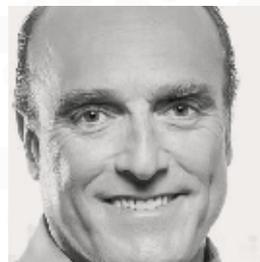
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## BRIEFING

In our World Congress in 2016 in Bogotá, UCLG committed to put the '**Right to the City**' at the heart of urban territorial governance. Growing inequalities create new forms of poverty and exclusion. In their daily tasks, local and regional governments face the responsibility of tackling socio-spatial exclusion and promoting social justice, integrating migrants, preventing discrimination and urban violence, and protecting social rights to ensure prosperity and well-being.

The Right to the City is the **collective right** of all inhabitants of cities and territories, present and future, permanent and temporary "to use, occupy and produce fair, inclusive and sustainable cities, defined as a common good essential to a full and decent life". Article 11 of the New Urban Agenda, adopted in Quito in October 2016, notes the efforts of national and local governments to enshrine the Right to the City as a vision for cities for all.

UCLG has been defending the Right to the City as a way to renew the social contract at local level, while focusing on local democracy, citizen participation, and the reduction of inequalities and poverty. The UCLG Policy Council on "**Right to the City and Inclusive Territories**" will be the place where members are invited to share their views and policies on the Right to the City and its implementation.

Furthermore, the Policy Council will bring to the debate views on how to support inclusive housing policies and ensure the full and progressive realization of the right to **adequate housing for all**, work with communities to upgrade slums and regenerate poor neighbourhoods, and support the social production of habitat. It should further contribute to developing the concept of housing as a human right, which UCLG has been supporting in collaboration with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Housing.

It shall also discuss targeted social policies with the recognition of the indivisibility and **universality of human rights** in order to concretely implement the Global Charter Agenda for Human Rights in the City.

Right to the City is a transversal issue for local and regional governments, which offers a new framework on how to better connect metropolitan areas, territories, regions and small and intermediary cities, as well as better integrate environmental and risk reduction issues. The Policy Council will include a **strong gender perspective** on the particular needs, resources and opportunities of women, girls and the LGBTI community.

It will also produce inputs on how to facilitate **migrants'** (in particular newcomers' and refugees') access to rights and services and strengthen integration and inclusion policies and strategies (related to employment, education, health and housing). In addition, it will reflect on and debate the approach to be developed by local governments to change the discourse on migration and create a balanced narrative that also highlights the benefits and opportunities created by migrants at local level. The local dimension of migration governance and the multilevel coordination needed in this context should also be central axes when it refers to the theme of migration.

Given this transversal aspect, this Policy Council will be strongly linked with the other Policy Councils on Culture and City Diplomacy, Multilevel Governance and Financing, and Safer, Resilient and Sustainable Cities.