

**BUILDING INCLUSIVE, SAFE  
AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES**



# introduction

## “The city of 2030”

### *Our Manifesto*

A democratic, **self-governing city** with a strategic plan for its future; an **inclusive city** based on the participation of all its inhabitants; a **liveable city** with universal quality public services and infrastructures; a **creative city** which constantly inspires and nurtures creativity and innovation; a secure and peaceful city; a **city for work**; a city without slums; a **cleaner, greener** and more compact city; a city which **shares responsibilities and cooperates** with other municipalities and strengthens its partnership with other levels of government.

Contributing to the post-2015 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda of Habitat III in 2016 is a strategic priority of UCLG. To do this, we have decided to build our own Global Agenda of Local and Regional Governments that reflects the concerns, priorities and vision of sub-national governments.

This manifesto is our starting point for this process.



GOVERNANCE



FINANCING



PLANNING



INCLUSIVE  
CITIES



ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT



ENVIRONMENT



CULTURE

## THE URBAN OPPORTUNITY

*The world has changed radically since Habitat II. Within the next 30 years, two thirds of the global population will be urban.*

### Cities as locus

Cities are the locus of many of the main development challenges. Urbanization in many low-income countries is accompanied by the urbanization of poverty. Nearly one billion urban dwellers live in slums with limited access to basic services. In terms of environmental impact, urban sprawl is an unsustainable model of urban development. Cities consume 60-80% of energy worldwide and account for a roughly equivalent share of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

### Cities as platforms

However, urbanization – and the city itself – is a platform for change. Urban areas are essential to economic growth and development; more than 70 per cent of global GDP is already generated in cities, a share that is only increasing (World Bank, 2013). The density and innovative capacity of cities provide a unique opportunity to stimulate more sustainable consumption and production patterns.

### Cities as drivers of change

City governments have emerged as drivers of change – urban and metropolitan governments across the world are innovating and leading from the bottom up on climate change mitigation, women's empowerment, local economic development, and social and cultural inclusion.

The following papers are the result of the very early stages of UCLG's work in preparation for Habitat III. They are based on ongoing collaborative work between UCLG Committees and Working Groups, academic experts, and sub-national political leaders.

# urban and territorial governance

*“But precisely because it has to be strong, central government ... has to free itself from the jobs that require local knowledge, local decisions and local action”*

Peter F. Drucker, Landmarks of Tomorrow, 1957

## FUELING THE DEBATE

- Do local governments have the necessary technical and financial resources to implement their legal responsibilities?
- How is participatory democracy fostered at local level?
- What instruments do local governments have to coordinate and work with civil society and private sector?
- What role should cities play in the process of building a global agenda?

## CURRENT CONTEXT

Habitat I (1976) and Habitat II (1996) made no specific reference to urban governance or the need for strategic planning policies. However, in 1997 it was declared that “correctly planned and managed cities are the future of human development”.

The Habitat Agenda calls for an ‘enabling environment’ characterized by: the decentralization of responsibilities and resources to local governments according to the principle of subsidiarity; civil society participation; the use of partnerships (including with the private sector); and the capacity-building of those involved in decision-making and urban development policy.

## THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Too often, role of local governments in development is debated by states and negotiated with investors and donors without local governments themselves being part of the conversation. This seems to lead to decentralization and a local development agenda “in lieu”, rather than “in support” of a local urban and territorial governance system.

In this context, there is growing consensus that, to actively contribute to the achievement of the post-2015 goals, cities need to have a greater role in local development planning and management, with broader access to resources and a more decentralized governance structure.

## MAIN CHALLENGES

Cities must address many challenges related to urban and territorial governance, particularly a lack of capacity, increasing scarcity of financial resources and dysfunctional relationships between levels of government.

### Main needs



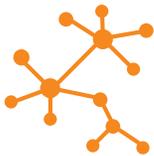
improve **organizational structures**, systems and procedures to manage public resources



take on **more responsibilities** in social and environmental policy-making and service provision



**legal frameworks** and mechanisms to facilitate collaboration with other levels of government, the private sector and civil society



**more resources** for decentralization, especially in low-income countries



enhance active citizenship and **participatory governance**



improve **strategic planning** to manage territories and make urban growth more sustainable

## KEY OPPORTUNITIES

### At global level



Strengthen the involvement of local and regional governments in global affairs



Strengthen intergovernmental coordination, multilevel partnerships and new technologies

### At national level



Promote decentralization and local self-government



Acknowledge the role of urban policies

### At local level



Strategically planning the territory



Strengthen management through participation

# urban financing

*"I do not feel that we should allow a shortage of funds to prevent cities from financing needed projects."*

Hubert H. Humphrey , 38th Vice President of the US under Lyndon Johnson

## FUELING THE DEBATE

- Why are the recommendations of the international community not enforced at the national level?
- What are the real investment needs and how can the quality and productivity of investments in cities be improved?
- Which financial mechanisms are most appropriate in order to fill the gap between available funds and funding needs?
- Which tax reforms should be made to mobilize local and national wealth?
- How can access to borrowing and public-private partnerships be supported?

## CURRENT CONTEXT

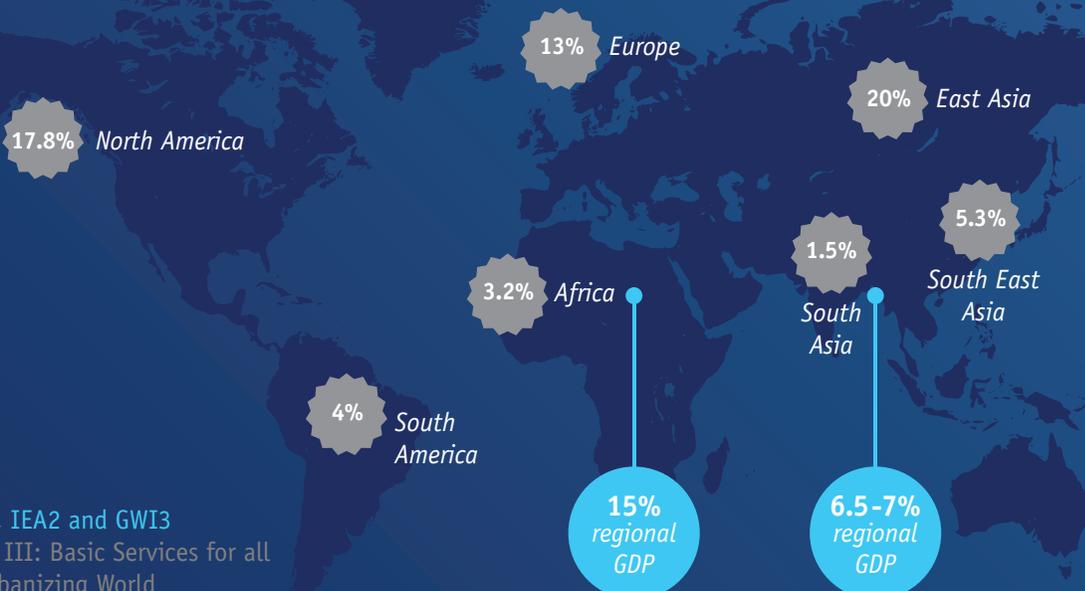
In a context of rapid urbanization and dwindling revenues, local governments have increasing responsibilities for meeting the basic needs of citizens, local economic development, and environmental protection; the funds available for the promotion of local development are far inferior to the resources required to take on these challenges.

One billion slum dwellers already have limited access to basic services. Over the coming 20-30 years, 1.4 billion new urban dwellers will need access to basic services in low-income countries.

- *Required investments in infrastructure by the year 2030* <sup>1</sup>

**U.S. \$ 57,000 BILLION**

- *The ratio of local government revenues /national government revenues* <sup>2</sup>



Sources:

1) OECD, IEA2 and GWI3

2) GOLD III: Basic Services for all in an Urbanizing World

## THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Studies conducted within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals have shown that the low level of attainment of MDGs is strongly linked to the lack of funds granted to local governments. Access to basic services is therefore dependent on the financial capacity building of local governments. This issue is especially crucial as a lack of basic investments entail a very high cost in terms of local, social and economic development, climate change and resilience. The deficit in basic urban infrastructures hinders the economic growth of countries, limits the attractiveness of regions and business productivity.

### Access to basic services<sup>3</sup>



*Investments needed to connect people to the water and sanitation networks in Africa= 1% GDP*



*Economic loss due to the lack of access to these services in Africa= 6.5% GDP*

### Economic growth

*Africa = India or Pakistan*

*Economic growth if infrastructures were like those in India or Pakistan = 2.2% per year*

*Latin America = Turkey*

*Economic growth in Latin America if infrastructures were like those in Turkey = 2% per year*

## ● MAIN CHALLENGES

**Achieve a fair distribution of income between local and central government:** the structural revenues of local governments are made up of local taxation, central government transfers, and fees for the services delivered to citizens. These are intended to finance current expenditures delivered by local governments, but depend totally on national revenue distribution. In a majority of low-income countries, this distribution is unfair.

**Ensure equitable access to credit for local governments:** in many low-income countries, local governments face difficulties in accessing credit, either because they are not legally allowed, or because the financial markets are too poor. As for the banking sector, it is usually reluctant to open up to local governments because they are not considered attractive due to their poor repayment capacities. Public-Private Partnerships, which have been in decline since the start of the global economic crisis, are concentrated in emerging countries and in some of the most profitable sectors. Tapping this funding potential implies that national reforms must be undertaken in order to encourage, secure, and adapt financing to the needs and capacities of local governments.

## KEY OPPORTUNITIES

### Engaging the international community

The international community should support urban basic infrastructure financing, promoting adequate loan policies that could multiply the effect of financing. Tools to monitor the implementation of fiscal decentralization could be proposed to help monitor such transition.

### Capturing the added value of land generated by public investment

Infrastructures in low-income countries should be returned to local governments as a fair 'return on investment'. In countries in which these tools do not exist, it is important to carry out reforms so that this potential form of financing can be harnessed.

### Giving local governments access to green funds

Local governments should ramp up their efforts to access 'green' financing mechanisms, adapted to their idiosyncrasies, in an efficient and effective way.

3) GOLD III: "Basic Services for All in an Urbanizing World" UCLG 2013

# urban planning

*"A city is not an accident but the result of coherent visions and aims."*

Leon Krier, *The Architecture of Community*

## FUELING THE DEBATE

- How can short and long term planning be joined up and made to work together?
- Can community and/or private sector involvement be helpful for long term planning?
- Can planning encourage business users to settle in peripheral neighborhoods or provide social housing in central areas?
- Are we over-regulating? How can we improve the coordination between legal and political instruments and urban policies? Are more legal and political tools required?

## CURRENT CONTEXT

Urban planning should respond to changing local contexts to promote more compact, mixed and inclusive cities, reducing urban sprawl, and promoting public space as a place for social interaction, with the aim of reducing poverty and ensuring sustainability.

## *Behaviour changes that planners need to take into account*



Intention to reduce car dependence, short distances



Increasing value of natural resources, especially water and land



Recycling of land for new uses and demolition of unused properties



Awareness of the risk and unrest caused by spatial fragmentation



Availability of local geographical data allows new formats of communication and management



Young people are looking for more flexible housing solutions in city centers



Trend emphasizing locally sourced food consumption and the agricultural role of the urban hinterland



Cultural expressions in public space: place-making, integration, youth



More participation of communities at neighborhood and city level



Awareness of climate change and disaster risk and responsibility

## THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Local governments, particularly in low-income countries, need support to strengthen their capacities for planning and data management, to develop more strategic approaches that integrate spatial, economic and social policy goals.

- The approach of administrations is changing from a focus on controlling development to facilitating it
- Local government planning and consultation processes add a valuable new dimension to the more expert driven, top-down approach of master planning.

### CORE COMPETENCES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS



URBAN DESIGN  
AND EQUIPMENT OF  
PUBLIC SPACES



COLLECTING AND  
MANAGING SPATIAL  
DATA (CADASTER)



LAND USE (SPATIAL)  
AND MASTER PLANS



PROVIDING  
AND MANAGING  
PUBLIC SERVICES

## MAIN CHALLENGES

The scale of the need for housing and basic services, particularly in low-income countries, is growing rapidly and practitioners are often unprepared.

Urban planning is particularly important to cities that are growing or shrinking:

**Villages and towns:** weak in services and sensitive to public budget cuts, they are frequently reduced to dormitory towns (where they are an affordable distance from cities).

**Intermediary cities:** growing significantly in land area and need to deal with unexpected demands for services and employment.

**Peripheral cities:** host a huge proportion of the population that has moved to cities in the last 50 years. Some are home to mainly poor populations, while others harness the economic spillover of wealthy metropolitan areas.

**Metropolises:** have particular land markets that allow them to reinvent themselves (recycling spaces or regenerating and compacting existing ones).

**Regional governments** support the aforementioned groups in order to mitigate the disadvantage they face due to location. Additionally some local governments enter into intergovernmental partnerships as a way to be more effective and compete together.

## KEY OPPORTUNITIES



### Enhancing quality of life

Opportunities for residents to lead healthier lives through design interventions that promote walking and bicycling and programs that encourage easier access to services throughout the city



### Redefining density dynamics

Clustered developments with necessary services, such as grocery stores, schools, medical clinics and other businesses in close proximity offer attractive city planning combinations



### Improving environmental impact

Smart planning can promote the greening of vacant spaces, including former industrial facilities, to be reused as parks, urban farms or community gardens

# inclusive cities and territories

*“Policies for social inclusion must be at the centre of the political agenda of local governments in this century, along with the human, infrastructure and financial resources required for their development.”*

For a World of Inclusive Cities, UCLG

## FUELING THE DEBATE

- What are the minimum political-administrative structures and financial resources necessary to implement solid social policies?
- Through which mechanisms and practices can citizen participation be ensured in the design, implementation and evaluation phases of local policies?
- What kind of changes must be brought about to institutionalize local citizen participation practices so that they become a new policy culture, without being rigid, bureaucratic and static?
- Which guarantee and protection mechanisms prove most effective for protecting citizens' rights (mediation or arbitration mechanisms, the creation of local ombudsmen, etc.)?

## CURRENT CONTEXT

Since Habitat II, the global urbanization process has become even more complex. Several major cities have turned into metacities, city regions, or have gone on to form long urban corridors whose democratic management is difficult due to the magnitude of the area they cover. In such cities, sometimes several political-administrative units exist side by side with little coordination between them, and they can be home to millions of inhabitants with unequal access to basic services, urban mobility, housing, education and health.

Cities offer new opportunities but also generate serious social exclusions. Urbanization in many developing countries is accompanied by the urbanization of poverty. Nearly one billion urban dwellers live in slums with limited access to basic services.

## THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Today there is a vital and pressing need to build inclusive cities and territories that combat exclusion and guarantee the rights of each and every one of their inhabitants. As the levels of government closest to the people, local and regional governments are in a unique political position to promote social inclusion by ensuring access to basic services, promoting affordable housing and land, improving health and education, empowering people with disabilities, reducing urban segmentation, and developing gender sensitive policies. ►

► As a key dimension of inclusive policies, many city governments around the world have implemented innovative forms of participatory democracy to address the inequalities in voice and influence faced by low-income groups, minorities or groups facing discrimination (for instance women and young people). This can be seen in participatory budgeting or planning, local assemblies or “dialogue days” between local elected officers and communities, quotas reserved to ensure the representation of women, traditional authorities or minorities, the use of social media and new technologies to encourage participation, and the use of referenda or consultations.

## KEY OPPORTUNITIES

There is a great opportunity to develop local policies that contribute to combat social exclusion in the areas of:

- Access to basic services
- Community strengthening and the fight against discrimination
- Education and employment
- Territory, urbanism and the environment
- Housing and health

## MAIN CHALLENGES

*Local authorities need to address the challenges of social exclusion in cities*

### Housing and health



- Land use disputes and spatial segregation
- Urban gentrification with no redistribution of the capital gains
- Environmental degradation and access to water and energy
- Lack of access to public transport, particularly for socially or economically disadvantaged people

### Education and employment



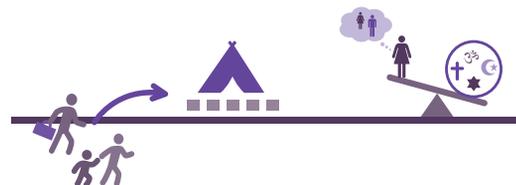
- Poverty and lack of local economic development
- Informal economy with no job protection
- Academic failure and school drop-outs
- Unequal opportunities for young people at risk of social exclusion

### Territory, urbanism and the environment



- Precarious housing
- Poor provision of basic services
- Lack of infrastructure for children, the elderly and people with disabilities
- Dependence and excessive burden of care-giving duties in the home

### Community ties and discrimination



- Weakening of community relations and loss of distinctive cultures
- Vulnerable situations endured by immigrants and/or refugees
- Unequal access to social resources
- Identity vacuum for second or third generations of immigrant families

# local economic development

*“We hope to reside in cities that are resilient. Are sustainable. And above all, livable. We deserve, and with the right choices, can have all three.”*

David Maddox, Founder & Editor, The Nature of Cities

## FUELING THE DEBATE

- What can national governments do to empower local governments with clear mandates to lead and coordinate LED in their communities?
- What can local governments do to enhance the financial resources available for LED in their communities?
- What are examples of best practices in capacity development for LED?
- How can local authorities use LED methods and resources to improve conditions for marginalized groups working in the informal sector?

## CURRENT CONTEXT

Rapidly growing cities are major centres of economic growth. Urbanization creates new opportunities and promotes the densification of economic activities; cities generate around 70% of global GDP. Nevertheless, in many cities in low-income countries, the informal sector and small enterprises provide the bulk of the jobs available to the urban poor.

Urban economic policy should be focused on strengthening the capacity of cities to realize their full potential as drivers of economic development, wealth and employment creation. Special emphasis should be put on boosting local economic policies and on ensuring decent urban jobs and livelihoods, in particular for women, youth and marginalized people.

— *Local economic development (LED) is needed to help cities manage their daily challenges* —



impact of global crises and changing urban economies



need for investments in infrastructures to create jobs



promote innovation, build attractive and competitive cities



industrial production concentrating in low-income countries



increase of unemployment, income inequality and economic exclusion



young people lack employment opportunities



gender inequality persists, with women facing barriers to education and unequal wages



the informal sector is the main source of urban employment in low-income countries

## THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Local governments need to adopt proactive roles to foster local economic development (LED). Definitions of LED policies vary, but all have these common elements:

### Promote participation



*Partnerships between local governments, the private sector, other public sector bodies, and civil society to develop local economic policies and initiatives.*

### Integrated strategy



*Integrate efforts across sectors to meet community goals, such as better quality jobs, poverty reduction, environmental sustainability, and the inclusion of marginalized groups.*

### Leadership and coordination



*Local governments provide leadership and coordination in the planning and implementation of economic initiatives, either directly or through delegation to community-based organizations.*

### Long-term approach



*Aim at developing inclusive, resilient communities, not just economic growth. It takes time to build local capacities and include marginalized groups.*

## MAIN CHALLENGES

**Lack of decentralization framework:** there is no clear national framework for the decentralization to local governments of legal and fiscal authority for economic development. Local governments require clarity as to their mandate, roles, and responsibilities for LED.

**Insufficient financial resources:** local governments need access to sufficient financial resources to fulfill their mandates. In low-income countries, most local governments are underfunded; their tax base is small and the resources transferred are inadequate.

Strengthen local capacities in planning, coordination, revenue generation, and the creation of economic development structures, programs, and services involving community partners.

## KEY OPPORTUNITIES

### Enabling local governments

With sound LED policy frameworks at the national level, local governments will be positioned to play a strong leadership role in building inclusive and sustainable cities.

### Enhancing peer-to-peer learning

Local governments can use LED methods and resources to improve conditions for young people, women and marginalized groups in the informal sector.

### Using LED as inclusive framework

Promoting knowledge transfer among local governments, including South-South and triangular cooperation for sharing and learning about effective methods of LED.

In summary, local governments need formal recognition of their role as leaders of economic development in their communities as they play a key role shaping local economies, both in terms of creating an enabling environment and acting as a catalyst for development.

# urban sustainable environment

*“All interest sectors involved in achieving sustainable urban development have genuine but differing ‘visions’ of the future... these ideals remain within their discrete worlds and are rarely acknowledged or understood outside their expert communities”*

K. Williams, 2010, International Journal of Urban Sustainable Development

## FUELING THE DEBATE

- What kind of models do we need to assess urban climate processes?
- How important is local governance in adaptation and mitigation?
- What type of adaptation policies are needed to address citizens’ needs, in particular those of the most vulnerable?
- What type of financing mechanisms can match local needs, in particular for infrastructures?
- How can market priorities be reconciled with the basic needs of communities?

## CURRENT CONTEXT

Cities represent both the greatest challenge and the greatest hope for a sustainable future. The world’s largest cities account for 70% of the world’s CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Over 90% of urban areas are located in coastal areas and face growing risks of flooding due to climate change. UN projections suggest that almost all the growth in the world’s population over the next two decades will be in urban areas in today’s low- and middle-income countries. The doubling of the urban population will be accompanied by a tripling of the built-up area of cities. Fast-paced urbanization that further concentrates populations, economic activity, disaster risk and greenhouse gas emissions in cities will only make urban environmental policy more important.

## THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Part of the solution to the challenges of climate change and urbanization is found in cities themselves. Cities represent both the greatest challenge and the greatest hope for a sustainable future. The density and innovative capacity of cities provide a unique opportunity for cities and metropolitan governments to promote more sustainable consumption and production patterns.

Local governments are leading on climate change from the bottom up. Through effective urban governance and planning they are harnessing the agglomeration advantages of cities to limit urban sprawl, and reduce disaster risk and greenhouse gas emissions: ►

- The **Cities Climate Registry (cCCR)** global reporting platform was set up in 2010 to allow cities and local governments to report and monitor their energy and climate commitments, greenhouse gas emissions and mitigation and adaptation actions.
- 51 cities representing 83 millions of inhabitants have recorded their environmental initiatives in the Carbons registry. Together the cities in the

Carbons registry have achieved a reduction in their emissions of 447 million CO2 tons.

- Local and regional governments and their organizations formed the **Compact of Mayors** in March 2014, with the support of the UN Secretary General, to showcase their initiatives and commitments to reducing city emissions.

## MAIN CHALLENGES

### Urban Environment



*Reduce urban environmental and air pollution by improving waste and wastewater management, increasing the use of clean fuels*

### Greenhouse Gases



*Achieve marked reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption through improved buildings and transport management*

### Climate Change



*Develop robust urban climate change and disaster resilience plans integrated into national climate adaptation and mitigation plans*

### Natural Disasters



*Support local governments and stakeholders to better prepare to mitigate and respond to natural disasters*

## KEY OPPORTUNITIES

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve urban planning to reduce urban sprawl and land consumption</li> <li>• Develop policies to modify consumption patterns</li> <li>• Promote sustainable mobility systems and adequate mass transport</li> <li>• Develop participatory resilience plans to ensure mitigation and adaptation to climate change and natural disasters threats.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce greenhouse emissions and increase energy efficiency in buildings and infrastructure</li> <li>• Use the potential of the green economy to boost local economic development and create jobs</li> <li>• Improve the relationship of urban areas with their rural hinterlands and regions to optimize the use of resources</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open up access to green financing mechanisms and emissions trading schemes to sub-national governments</li> <li>• Engage citizens, civil society, and the private sector to respond jointly to define long term visions for their communities</li> </ul> |
|--|---|---|

# culture: heritage, diversity and creativity

*“Cultural matters are integral parts of the lives we lead. If development can be seen as enhancement of our living standards, then efforts geared to development can hardly ignore the world of culture”*

Amartya Sen

## FUELING THE DEBATE

- Can urbanization and physical planning embrace heritage and culture and integrate them into policy frameworks?
- Are there ways to successfully recognize and strengthen the cultural diversity of cities so that it becomes an asset and a source of innovation?
- Are heritage, cultural industries, crafts, tourism and culture-led urban renewal suitable strategic tools for revenue and employment generation?
- Should poverty eradication strategies include a cultural dimension to fight against lack of knowledge, skills and opportunities?

## CURRENT CONTEXT

Habitat II already mentioned culture as a key component of sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world. The SDGs and Habitat III need to be more ambitious: these frameworks should integrate and operationalize culture in the sustainable development of cities.

Globalization has brought cities to the centre of the debate on economic progress, the fight against poverty, the environmental balance and the struggle of citizens to learn, enjoy life, enhance freedoms and decide the future. The key element for local sustainable development in the next decades will be located in the **local interconnections** of concerns such as employment, creativity, physical planning, heritage, housing, inclusion, mobility, culture, nature, resilience, diversity and governance. Positive transformations will be generated through the integration of these domains.

## THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

In its 2010 policy statement on culture and sustainable development, United Cities and Local Governments provided initial guidance for the integration and operationalization of culture in local sustainable development, and put forward a dual approach to this relation.

First, culture is a **driver of development**, the key element of meaning, vitality and innovation; thus,

cities are invited to elaborate a solid cultural policy based on heritage, diversity and creativity.

Secondly, culture is **an enabler of development**, through the multiplier contributions that it makes to promote inclusive social and economic development, environmental sustainability, harmony, peace and security; therefore, cities are invited to include a cultural dimension in all public policies.

## MAIN CHALLENGES

*There are very effective ways to place culture at the centre of the sustainable development of cities.*

### Culture drives freedoms

- *Enables individuals “to live and be what they choose” and improve quality of life*
- *The material for the dynamic construction of identities*
- *The basic ingredient of inhabiting our cities and becoming citizens of a globalized world*
- *A resource to address challenges and find appropriate solutions for citizens*

### Culture boosts the economy

- *One of the fastest growing sectors, providing content for digital technologies*
- *The anchor of sustainable urban tourism*
- *Economic value is today closely linked to design and symbolic significance*
- *A key contributor to fostering entrepreneurship capacity and skills*
- *Culture empowers young people to be more imaginative and innovative*

### Culture is linked to equity

- *It enables citizen participation, community empowerment and social cohesion*
- *An indispensable tool to fight against poverty*
- *It fosters intercultural dialogue and conflict resolution*
- *New approaches to addressing slum upgrading and regeneration of city-centres*

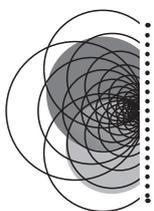
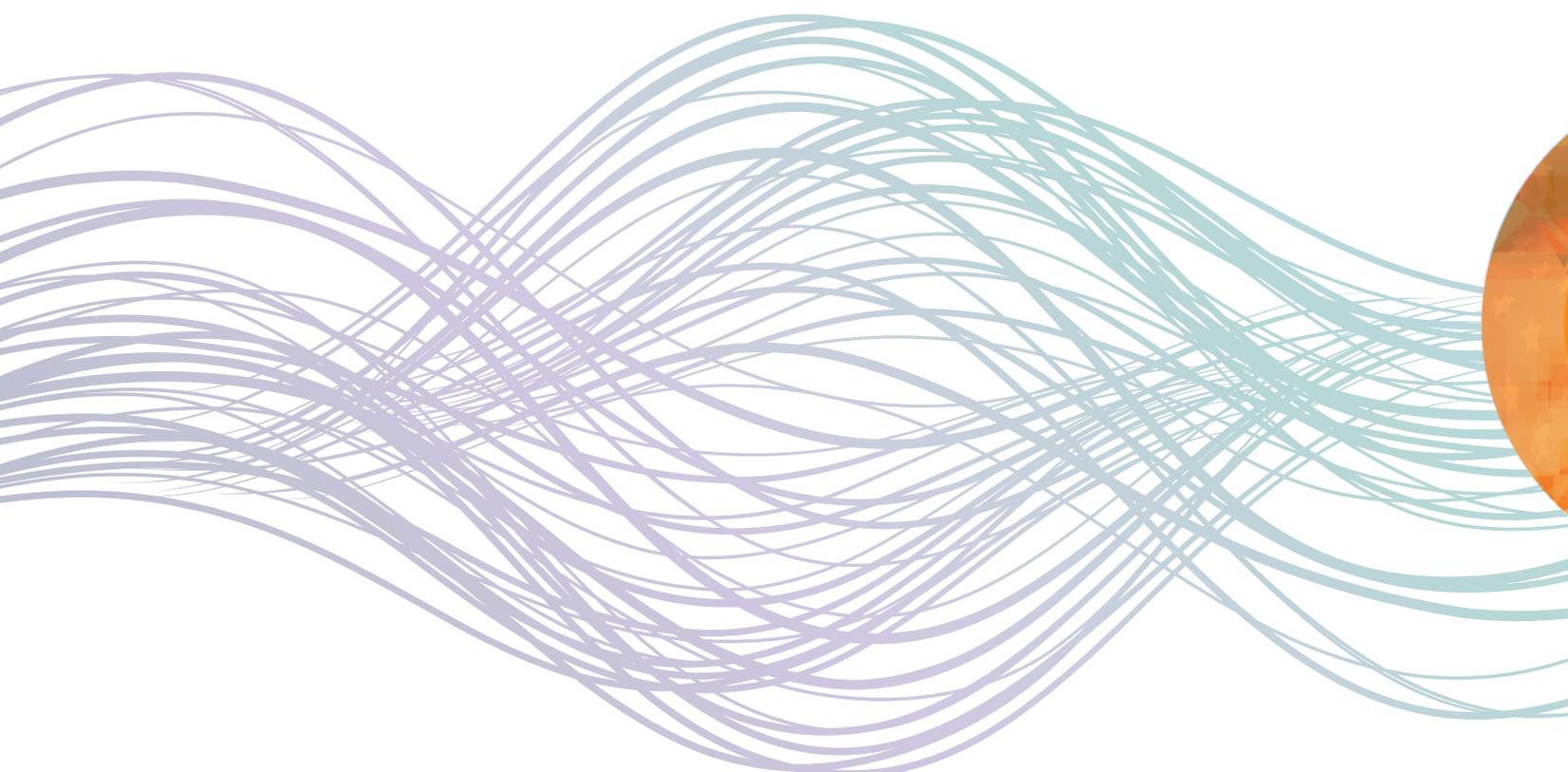
### Culture and the environment evolve together

- *Culture is part of the identity of people and societies, often related to the founding land*
- *It provides knowledge for resilience, emphasizing locality and historical continuities*
- *It raises awareness of our ecological footprints and new production and consumption patterns*
- *The reconnection of our values towards a more harmonious balance with the environment*

## KEY OPPORTUNITIES

“Agenda 21 for culture” is a global charter that has inspired and connected outstanding examples, in all continents, on the ways to successfully operationalize culture in urban sustainable development.

- *Urban regeneration strategies have included an explicit cultural dimension, which successfully combine basic cultural public services for all, new infrastructure and promotion of the initiatives of civil society*
- *Cultural actors have been successfully involved in memorialization processes to preserve memories of people or events, and in upholding cultural rights in divided and post-conflict societies*
- *Traditional local knowledge and building technologies are often best suited to local environmental conditions*
- *Urban development can be informed by international practices, but they must be adapted to the specificities of local resources, values and frameworks*
- *In cities, cultures are dynamic, not static. Culture is multi-faceted, incorporating a range of expressions and values embodied in built heritage, intangible heritage, collective activities, and the contemporary arts*



**GLOBAL TASKFORCE**  
 OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS  
 FOR POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA  
 TOWARDS HABITAT III



with the support of:



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