



2012 Highlights



Activity Report from Florence to Dakar

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UCLG on its way to Habitat III in 2016

Cities, local, metropolitan and
regional governments working
towards a new urban agenda

Next stop:

Congress Rabat 2013
1-4 October

FOREWORD BY THE UCLG PRESIDENCY



2012

2012 has been a year of financial and economic hardship for many of the members of UCLG. We have also seen conflicts, which have marked the international agenda, and under the continuously changing circumstances, important steps are being undertaken to define the future global agenda.

UCLG has tried to bring the interests of local and regional authorities to the heart of the international debate by playing an active role in the **Rio+20** process and by advocating for the inclusion of the local and regional authorities views in the **post-2015 development agenda**. Important achievements have been made by ensuring an unprecedented recognition of the roles of local governments in the Rio+20 outcome document. The improvement of our capacity to influence the UN Agenda has long been in our work plan and UCLG's leadership provided a clear mandate to work towards the achievement of **Permanent Observer Status** before the UN General Assembly.

Furthermore, the inclusion of UCLG's President, Dr. Kadir Topbaş in the **High-Level Panel of Eminent persons for 2015**, has guaranteed direct access to the discussions that will shape the future of the international agenda. UCLG has effectively supported decentralisation and local democracy in the developing countries, and has started work to define a city-to-city and learning agenda. The World Organization has further reached out to all global stakeholders, from private sector to civil society and Local Governments sister organization to call for joint action in preparation for the **Habitat III Conference**. Decisive steps have been undertaken to increase the participation of regional authorities in UCLG through a far-reaching partnership with the key representative organization.

This document provides an overview of our highlights from throughout the year and aims at being a testimony to the work developed by the different parts of our network, which we hope will inspire our work for coming year in the build up to our **IV World Congress in Rabat**.

MDGS POST-2015 AGENDA

Ban Ki-moon nominates Kadir Topbaş as a member of the post-MDGs High-Level Panel

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced on 31st of July 2012 the members of a High-Level Panel to advise on the global development agenda beyond 2015, the target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Among the 27 personalities of this High-Level Panel, the Secretary General requests the presence of Dr. Kadir Topbaş, Mayor of Istanbul and President of UCLG. This nomination is an important step forward in the recognition of the role of our constituency in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and in the definition of the future development agenda.

At the first meeting of the Panel on 25 September 2012 in New York, the President of UCLG expressed his commitment to ensuring that the diverse voices of local and regional authorities would reach the Panel. He also offered to facilitate a meeting of the Panel

members with local and regional authorities. The Panel focussed on the need to identify catalysts to achieve the 2015 Goals and define the targets beyond the MDGs. The Deputy Secretary General of the UN, Jan Eliasson stressed that, "it is necessary to identify areas that have the greatest multiplier effect, such as access to water and gender equality".

The UCLG President called for the Post 2015 process to focus on empowering the different stakeholders and in particular local and regional authorities. "Growing inequalities are the Achilles heel of the Millennium Development Goals. Many of these inequalities cannot be addressed without proper service provision of the urban dwellers around the world".



2nd High-Level Panel in London: poverty eradication

The second meeting of the Panel took place on 2 November in London and stressed the need to target **individual and household level poverty**. UCLG's President highlighted the importance of addressing inequalities at local level, through the **provision of basic services, adequate infrastructures and the definition of local development strategies**. Dr. Kadir Topbaş declared: "many of the challenges we face require an integrated territorial approach and the improvement of urban planning." He further stressed: "**Territorial inequalities should be addressed** by the future Post 2015 agenda".

Following up the commitment to represent the broad constituency of local and regional authorities and their diverse networks, the UCLG President has invited local government sister organizations to join a Task-force that will prepare inputs for the 2015 process.

He further proposed the High-Level Panel to have a dedicated sub-group on sustainable urbanization which will address development targets from the holistic approach of cities and will path the way for the new Urban Agenda to be defined at the Habitat III Conference.



Recognition of our catalytic role in Sustainability



Despite the discouraging results of the Rio+20 Summit in terms of lacking multilateral agreements and commitments, there is a bright side to the Outcome Document relative to the acknowledgement of the role that local and regional governments play and need to play in the sustainable development agenda.

Seldom before has there been an international policy document as far-reaching in both the recognition of the role of local and sub-national governance and as comprehensive in the thematic areas of influence described for these spheres of governments. The explicit recognition of the Habitat Agenda is also an important achievement.



The UN Secretary General welcomes Local and Regional Authorities at the UN Headquarters

On 23 April, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and UN-Habitat, with the support of Cities Alliance and UNACLA gathered local and regional governments leaders and networks together to a meeting in New York where they presented the key messages of these groups for Rio+20 to both United Nations Secretary-General Ban

Ki-moon, United Nations officials and the Group of Friends of Sustainable Cities. A Group of 23 countries Chaired by the Swedish and Singapore Ambassadors supported the amendments proposed by the local authorities to the negotiation text that would lead to the Rio Outcome Document.

DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION

Decentralized cooperation recognized as a tool for development

For the first time a global UN Conference has included decentralized cooperation in its programme: recognizing it as a tool for development. During the Roundtable on Decentralized Development Cooperation at the UN Development Cooperation Forum held in July 2012, UCLG advocated that particular attention

needs to be devoted to the transfer of resources and technical capacities in the context of South-South decentralized cooperation, and the impact of decentralized cooperation on the promotion of stronger, more participative national institutions. The representation of UCLG in this forum was guaranteed by the Chair and Vice

Chair of the Committee on Decentralized Cooperation. The Policy Paper on Local Authorities and Development produced by this Committee, was presented to the international audience and will be the bases for further work in this Forum that will pay special attention to gender equality in the coming year.

WORLD URBAN FORUM

Mayors Round-Table calls to revise the international governance architecture for urban and development issues



Over 200 Mayors and local practitioners gathered at the World Urban Forum called for the Third Conference of Sustainable Human Settlements (Habitat III) to revise the international governance architecture for urban and development issues. The President of UCLG presented the commitment of the UN Advisory Committee for Local Authorities (UNACLA) to significantly contribute to shaping the new Habitat Agenda. As inheritor of the Habitat II process, which set the basis for the creation of the World Organization of Cities and Local Governments, UCLG called all local government partners to unite and define the priorities of local and regional authorities internationally.

A session was held by the Committee on Decentralization and Local Self Government, chaired by the Diputación of Barcelona, and the UCLG World Secretariat in order to inform on the findings and recommendations of the II GOLD report with regard to local government Finance.

The UCLG Committee of Urban Strategic planning and Culture gathered city leaders, development partners and networks to debate on management practices and peer learning around different challenges.

The Manifesto of Cities

The World Urban Forum was also the occasion to launch the Cities Manifesto. Inspired in UCLG's **Manifesto for the City for 2030** and promoted by UCLG and Metropolis within the framework of the World Urban Campaign this document contains agreed commitments of urban partners for a sustainable city and can be seen as a brief overview of the key topics to be included in the new Urban Development Agenda in 2016.



INSTITUTIONAL

UCLG World Council in Florence: UCLG Strategy 2010-2016

700 local and regional elected officials from 40 different countries gathered in Florence for the UCLG World Council at the kind invitation of Mayor Renzi. The delegates approved the UCLG Strategy for 2010-2016 stressing the need to work towards a more inclusive network with continued participation of political, local and regional leaders.

The World Organization should be an environment open to innovation and a space to discuss and develop new ideas. The global strategy of the Organization is deeply rooted in the principles of localization and decentralization. It defines international actions from the experience that local and regional governments have quite rightly gained from their unique relation of proximity with their citizens. Obtaining Observer status before the United Nations and ensuring the promotion of our own agenda of sustainable development in view of Habitat III were identified as key elements for the work of UCLG in the coming years.



UCLG LEARNING AGENDA

UCLG and Metropolis: Connecting with the world of learners

UCLG and Metropolis gathered city leaders, development partners and networks to debate on learning practices and to identify key steps in the definition of City-to-City Learning Agendas building on the existing practices of the UCLG membership. This first joint meeting brought together 60 high-level urban thinkers and experts from around the world.

Partners applauded the initiative and proposed the institutionalization, within UCLG, of a Joint Forum of researchers, practitioners and development partners that will meet regularly to study trends and influence each other's agenda.

The sessions were directed towards discussing methodologies and receiving inputs on learning initiatives from diverse stakeholders.



WORLD WATER FORUM



350 local and regional elected officials agree to renew the Istanbul Water Consensus

Local and regional elected officials from across the five continents increased international mobilization of local and regional authorities on the issues of water and sanitation, and reinforced the commitments agreed upon in the Istanbul Water Consensus, on the occasion of the 6th World Water Forum, held in Marseille in March 2012.

DECENTRALIZATION AND LOCAL DEMOCRACY

Supporting the decentralization process in Tunisia

UCLG co-organised, together with the National Federation of Tunisian Cities (FNTV), the Tunisian Ministry of Interior, the Province of Barcelona, and with the support of Cities Alliance, an international conference on "Support to decentralisation in Tunisia: Urban realities and future prospects", which

was held in Tunis on May 2012. Local authorities are warned of the risk of being neglected in the new constitutional process and called for parliamentarians to include local authority constituencies in the drafting of the constitutional framework. They also proposed to promote pilot projects of citizen participation to help develop the new legislation. This conference is envisaged to be a political bases for the Joint Work Programme of Cities Alliance and its members in the MENA region.



GLOBAL REPORT ON DECENTRALIZATION AND LOCAL DEMOCRACY

3rd Global Report on Decentralization and Local Democracy



The 1st **GOLD III Steering Committee** meeting agreed to devote the report to the **governance of local basic services** and in particular to the role that local governments play in the provision of these services. A round table of experts, section representatives and partners defined research processes leading to the publication

of the 3rd Global report envisaged for 2013 and coinciding with the revision of the **United Nations Millennium Development Goals**.

The findings of GOLD III will be instrumental to facilitate inputs into the advocacy activities developed by the World Organization in the international development agenda.

UCLG PROGRAMMES

City Future programme: Supporting cooperation between Brazilian and Mozambican cities

Activities under the City-to-City Action Learning Exchange between Brazil and Mozambique started focussing on improving urban management. The project is part of the joint partnership between Frente de Prefeitos (national Brazilian association), the Local Authorities Association of Mozambique (ANAMM), the African Regional Section of UCLG (UCLGA), Architects Without Borders (ASF), the Network on Intermediary Cities (CIMES) and the UCLG World Secretariat in order to build proper support for city-to-city exchanges in 7 Mozambican and 5 Brazilian cities.



Supporting decentralization in developing countries in partnership with the EU

The UCLG Project "Support to Decentralization in Developing Countries", co-funded by the European Commission, advanced the process of dialogue with the regional organizations of integration in each of the projects regions. Reports on the state of decentralization were published in each region, and high-level conferences were held bringing together local governments, ministries and

the regional entities. ASEAN is the counterpart in Southeast Asia and the High-Level Conference took place in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 3-4 May. The East African Community is the counterpart in East Africa and a Conference as organized in Arusha, Tanzania, 24-25 September. Activities in Latin America culminated in the Ibero-American Forum of Local Governments (Madrid, Spain, 18-19 October). All of the above initiatives aim at promoting the creation of a regional space for dialogue. In West Africa the Council of Local Government (CCT) was created within the UEMOA. A first meeting of the Council elected the UVICOCI, in Ivory Coast, as President and adopted the work plan for the 1st year.

RELATIONS WITH CITIES ALLIANCE

Annual programme with Cities Alliance



The Secretariats of UCLG, UCLGA, Metropolis and CA met in Rabat during the week of 23 January to develop a joint work programme for promoting and strengthening the role of cities in the activities of the Alliance and to increase the capacity of cities to face the challenges of urbanization.

The secretariats reviewed the implications of the implementation of the new Cities Alliance Charter and business model emphasising that the central role of cities and local authorities in the programme should be maintained and further promoted. The role of Local Government Associations in the design and implementation of the country programmes should be developed.

Key areas of joint work are:

1. Support local authorities and their associations, particularly in SSA/MENA, to put urban development at the forefront of the policy agenda of national, regional and international institutions;
2. Strengthen mayors and city manager capacities to develop and implement sustainable and pro-poor urban policies;
3. Strengthen partnerships between African and Middle East cities and their local government partners of other regions to improve the quality and performance of urban development cooperation;

4. Develop advocacy activities before the international community to bring forward the concerns and commitments of local and regional authorities. Create a structural dialogue with CA members on the topics on the international agenda related to the partnership activities.

UCLG called for Cities Alliance to increase advocacy work related to putting urbanization at the centre of the development agenda. This work will be of particular importance on the way to Habitat III.

INTERNATIONAL GUANGZHOU AWARD

The Guangzhou Award for urban innovation



UCLG Co-President and Mayor of Guangzhou (China), Wan Qingliang, made the proposal to co-organise, together with UCLG and Metropolis, the Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation. The Award aims at acknowledging the improvement of the socio-economic environments in cities and regions, fostering sustainability and hence advances the livelihood of their citizens. Presented biennially, the Award will encourage and recognize outstanding innovative projects and

practices in the public sector. UCLG is part of the Organizing Committee of the Award and has identified key experts to be part of the Jury. The first edition of the Guangzhou Award for Innovation took place in Guangzhou on 16 November 2012 at the occasion of the Metropolis Board of Directors. The 5 winners of the Award were announced during the Award Ceremony: Kocaeli (Turkey), Lilongwe (Malawi), Seoul (South Korea), Vancouver (Canada) and Vienna (Austria).

COMMUNICATION

UCLG has a new website

The new UCLG website seeks to respond to the particular needs of each user and provide easier access to information. With a more user-friendly and welcoming layout, the new website is organized into three sections: Organization, Issues and Events. The new website has been designed to allow instant access from the homepage to the content, such as: Millennium Goals, Access to Basic Services, Development Cooperation, Decentralization, Lobbying before the United Nations, etc. All UCLG publications will be made available on the website (reports and synthesis, articles, bulletins...) in both printing and digital formats fit for dissemination in social networks.

New publications



STRATEGIC
PRIORITIES
2010-2016



GLOBAL CHARTER-
AGENDA FOR HUMAN
RIGHTS IN THE CITY



CITIES, LOCAL,
METROPOLITAN AND
REGIONAL GOVERN-
MENTS ON THEIR WAY
TO HABITAT III IN
2016

REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

New role for regional authorities: strengthening partnership with ORU-FOGAR

UCLG and ORU-FOGAR have developed a joint political agenda leading to the organization of the first World Forum of the Regions in Dakar on 4 December building on the conviction that local and regional authorities share a common agenda putting the citizens at the centre of decision making. Cohesion among territories and solidarity will be at the heart of the regional authorities agenda in UCLG as increased membership and participation is fostered.



PARTNERSHIPS

UCLG Corporate Partnership Programme focuses on joint advocacy

The World Organisation has developed its relations with the private sector by involving new corporate partners in the Corporate Partnership Programme: Suez Environment, GDF-Suez, Agbar, Makyol Construction and MNG Holding. Bilateral initiatives were organised, mainly on joint research (contribution to GOLD III case studies) and joint advocacy at the Rio Urban Summit in June and at the World Water Forum in March 2012.



Memorandum of Understanding with ILO

UCLG has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the United Nations International Labour Organization (ILO). The agreement was signed by the ILO Secretary General Mr Juan Somavia and by UCLG Secretary General Mr Josep Roig aiming at prioritizing Local Economic and Social Development in the UCLG Agenda. The first practical cooperation will take place in Mozambique, where ILO and UCLG will support the city of Maputo to identify challenges and opportunities for informal street vendors and markets within the framework of promoting decent jobs for all.



HIGHLIGHTS OF UCLG SECTIONS



NORTH AMERICA

The National League of Cities (NLC) organized 10 selected Solution Theater workshops at the 2012 Congress of Cities and Exposition in Boston, November 28-December 1 2012. Topics for the sessions ranged from waste reduction solutions to health and wellness to innovative service delivery through public-private collaborations to document management efficiencies for cities.

metropolis ●

World Association of the Major Metropolises

METROPOLIS

Metropolis' Board of Directors in Guangzhou focused on Urban Innovation and offered a political discussion on innovative urban development trends. In addition to the Statutory Meetings, the recently launched Metropolis Initiatives hosted a number of activities addressing urban challenges and solutions.



LATIN AMERICA

The 6th Congress of the Latin-American Federation of Cities, Municipalities and Associations (FLACMA), gathered more than 1,500 participants from over than 23 countries of Latin America.

The 7th Ibero-American Forum, hosted by the City of Madrid and co-organised by FLACMA, UCLG, UN-Habitat, UCCI and SEGIB supporting local economies and job creation, proposed the creation of a Cultural Network of Ibero-American Local Governments, and recalled that in view of the complex junction in which we find ourselves, the role of local and regional authorities are fundamental due to their proximity and knowledge of the reality of local economies.



AFRICA

UCLG Africa is the co-organiser of the Africities Summit organized every three years alternately in different regions of Africa. The event constitutes a highlight of the impetus given to the decentralization process in Africa and to the reflection on the place and role of local governments in the governance and development of African countries. The 6th edition of Africities Summit is taking place in the City of Dakar from 4th to 8th December 2012.





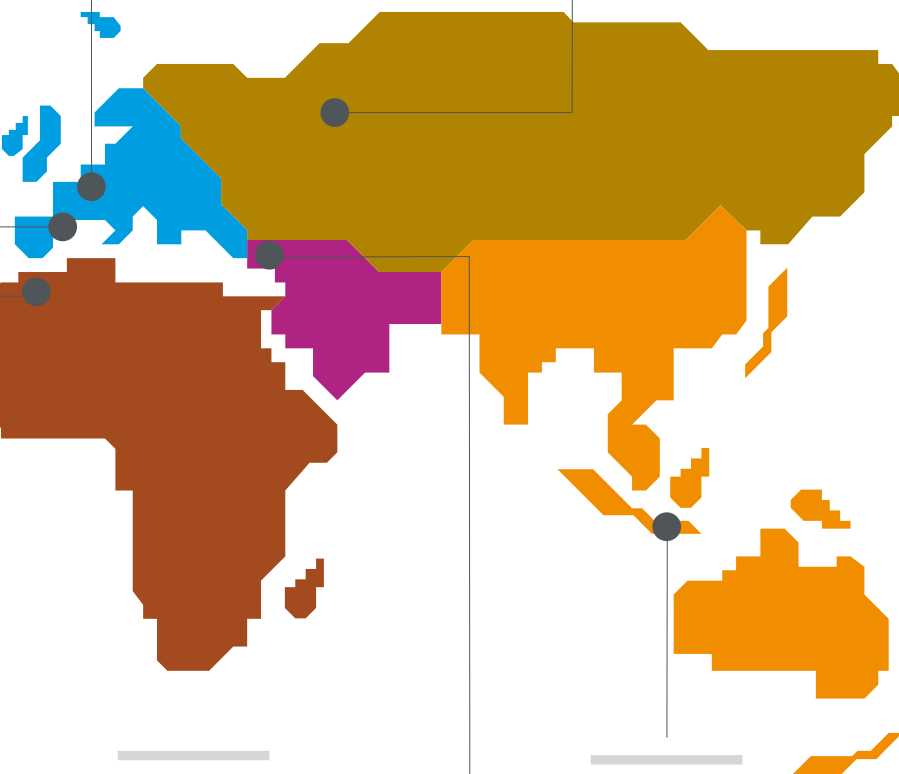
EUROPE

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) adopted the Cádiz declaration, entitled "Decentralisation, Development, Democracy - Innovating for a Europe in 3D". The 25th General Assembly taking place 26 to 28 September in Cadiz, Spain, proposed a new approach to development relying on European territories able to create the conditions for new growth – growth that is more sustainable and able to create jobs.



EURASIA

Eurasian cities met in Kazan to talk about innovation and heritage. The Eurasian Cities Forum, "Heritage and Innovations", held on July 5-8, focussed on: Innovations in the sphere of public services; the role of cultural and historical heritage in recognition of cities; the rise of international recognition of heritage cities in Eurasia; tourist attractiveness in cities of Eurasia and the development of cultural tourism.



MIDDLE EAST AND WESTERN ASIA

UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau, Council and General Assembly will take place from 12 to 15 January 2013 in Baghdad, Iraq. Two workshops will focus on Effect on Desert Storms in MEWA countries and Local governments systems in the MEWA region.



ASIA-PACIFIC

The 4th UCLG ASPAC Congress hosted by the Capital City of Indonesia, Jakarta, took place on 2-5 October marking the transition between the incoming and the outgoing president. The Congress was opened by former UCLG ASPAC President and Governor of Jakarta, Fauzi Bowo and closed with the election of Jatin V. Modi, President of All India Institute of Local Self Government, who became the new head of the UCLG Section.

Founded in May 2004, **United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)** is the united voice and world advocate of democratic local self-government. Representing over half the world's population, the members of UCLG are present in 140 UN Member States across all world regions: Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Eurasia, Middle East and West Asia, Latin America and North America. Over 1000 cities and regions are direct members of UCLG, as well as 112 national associations.

**RABAT
2013**
1-4 OCTOBER



World Summit
of Local and
Regional Leaders



UCLG

**United Cities
and Local Governments**

Carrer Avinyó, 15
08002 Barcelona - Spain
Telf: +34 933 428 750
Fax +34 933 428 769
info@uclg.org



www.uclg.org