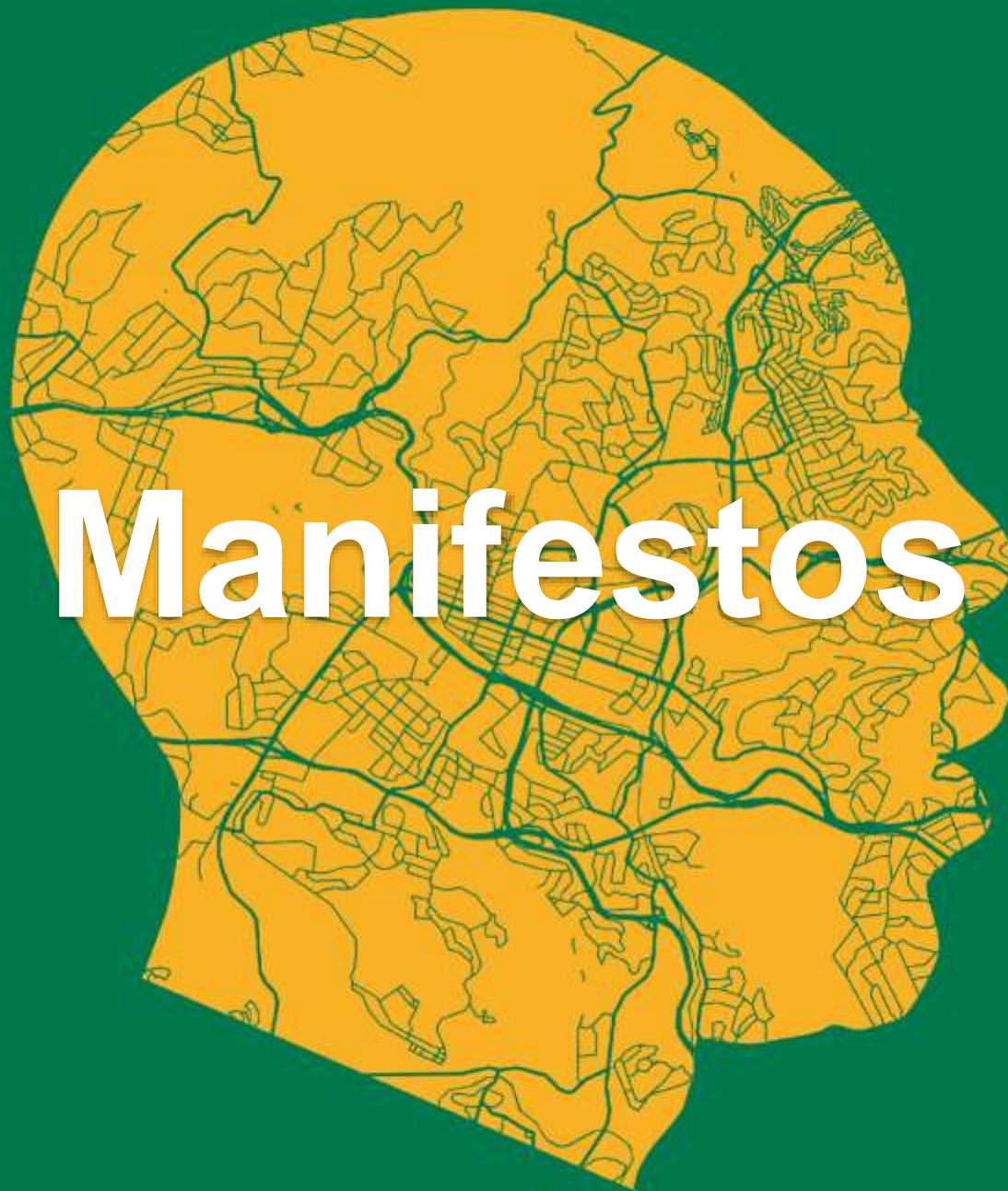


  
**Durban 2019**  
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UCLG CONGRESS  
**WORLD SUMMIT OF LOCAL  
AND REGIONAL LEADERS**



# Manifestos

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## **MANIFESTO ON THE FUTURE OF LOCAL FINANCE**

### **LOCALIZING FINANCE AND INVESTMENT: AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY**

All over the world, local and regional governments are responsible and held accountable for the delivery of public services. While international expectations from the local level are high, less than 25% of total public spending is currently carried out by local and regional governments on average worldwide. Local action is about financing infrastructure, ensuring sound financial management of their staff and preparing for the major transformation already underway. The financing of the SDGs is not out of reach, but the longer we wait, the higher the cost. Still, cost estimates, investment plans and roadmaps do not unlock the potential of local, metropolitan and regional governments nor reach the territories that need it most. Business as usual is no longer an option. A new paradigm is needed that places local and regional governments at the heart of mobilizing funding and investment for transformational change.

Localizing finance and investment must be a common ambition and concentrate the efforts of all actors at all levels within renewed frameworks of dialogue, consultation and cooperation. The diversity of domestic contexts must be fully taken into account and particular attention should be paid to local social and economic actors who are the first drivers of long-term financing strategies.

Central Governments must consider local and regional governments as full partners in public action working in the general interest. They must understand that the vertical integration and financial decentralization that they are expected to drive with resolve is not a zero-sum game in which they lose what local governments gain, but rather a win-win exercise. Direct investments carried out by local and regional governments currently account on average for nearly 40% of total public direct investments in the world. Such investments promote inspiring financing solutions that bring together a diverse range of actors and often raise significant amounts of additional funding; they need to be leveraged in the interest of all.

At national level, a major challenge is to strengthen Intermediary financing institutions of all kinds - local development funds, subnational development banks, cooperative funds, *Caisse de dépôts*, etc. – aimed at

catalyzing national and international financing and direct it towards the financing of local investments. They will strive to create enabling market conditions for local governments' capital investment.

Clearly, Development finance institutions (DFIs) have a major role to play in accelerating these changes and creating the appropriate condition for developing subnational financial markets. They can and should facilitate local and regional governments' direct access to financing under renewed financial partnership arrangements, thereby promoting models that can be replicated at scale. To play that role, DFIs must provide support at all stages of the local financing value chain, from training, project preparation, concessional debts to financial instruments for investment and risk reduction. They should also renew their approach to project risk and the creditworthiness of local and regional governments by fully considering social and environmental impact criteria into the evaluation of their support.

Changing the paradigm also means calling on the private sector's potential for designing technical and financial solutions. Private finance for local actions, in different forms such as debt, equity, investment, guarantees in combination with private expertise and financial engineering is crucial to support local governments in financing public action.

Finally, accurate information on the reality and constraints of multi-level governance, the effectiveness of territorial reforms and the detailed state of local finance at country level (the financial autonomy of local governments, their capacity to access credit and financial markets) is key to informing public debate and laying the groundwork for taking action.

Local and regional governments are committed to meeting these challenges. They are aware of their responsibilities and the expectations of the citizens in terms of transparency and accountability for the use of their resources. They expect all their partners to demonstrate the same commitment, commensurate with the challenges of the new social contract that we must jointly build for the resilient, equitable and inclusive society to which we all aspire for tomorrow.

## **MANIFESTO ON THE FUTURE OF EQUALITY: BEYOND BEIJING +25**

*Draft Statement from the UCLG World Congress to the 64<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW64) on Beijing+25 and Agenda 2030*

### **Global problems, local solutions.**

The pursuit of gender equality is not on track. Institutional and policy frameworks are still not adapted, as the Sustainable Development Goals Report 2019<sup>1</sup> demonstrates. It is true at the global level as much as at the local one. Women represent more than the half of the world population,<sup>2</sup> as such we must also take into account the diversity of women. Women, generally speaking, continue to be one of the populations most exposed to violence of all sorts; even more when they also belong to populations that have been historically discriminated against. This is a pressing challenges of our times: from economic development to migrations, from climate change to fair and equal access to basic services, from conflict resolution to the fulfilment of the Human rights declaration.

Whatever goal you pick out of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the UN 2030 Agenda, the status of women is one of 'vulnerability' or 'invisibility' even though they are pro-active and effective actress of the transformation. As a result, in most cases, policy design and implementation are less adapted to their specific needs, in particular those of women and girls of African descent, from autochthonous populations, migrants, LGBTQIA+ or belonging to any other population exposed to structural exclusion or marginalization.

Despite their pivotal role in the achievement of the transformational goals set out in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as in the UN 2030 Agenda, the contributions of local and regional governments to gender equality across development sectors also often remains invisible. However, as the level of government the closest to the communities, local and regional governments are best placed to

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<sup>1</sup> <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2019.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [https://population.un.org/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2019\\_Highlights.pdf](https://population.un.org/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2019_Highlights.pdf)

reshape and implement relevant policies and sustain strategic partnerships that empower women and girls in the achievement of the global agendas.

## **Implementing the Beijing action plan.**

The shaping of the world, from the conception of international and institutional frameworks to the effective local implementation based on bottom-up processes elaborated in collaboration with grass-roots and civil society organizations, will not happen sustainably if women, in all their diversity, are not fully included. Local governments must take action for gender mainstreaming as they play a crucial role for the achievement of the main critical areas foreseen by the Beijing action plan: poverty, education and training, health, violence, armed conflict, economy, power and decision-making, institutional mechanism, human rights, media, environment and the girl child.

### *1. Local and regional governments leading the way.*

Gender equality is a human right with implications for the whole-of-society. As such, it is critical to guarantee that cities, metropolitan spaces, urban and rural areas are accessible and equally enjoyable for women and girls as they are for men and boys. Local and regional governments hold a collective responsibility to ensure that a full-fledge and coherent gender strategy for the fulfillment of fundamental human rights, including their financial, legal and political autonomy. As major employers and service providers, local and regional governments can have a significant impact on women's lives by promoting fair employment regulations, eliminating harassment and ensuring non-discriminatory practices. As a matter of fact, a large number of experiences, policies and actions towards this can already be found on the ground. Beyond the advocacy work, local governments act to promote models of best practices for communities. They must now lead the way to a more equitable, balanced and gender-responsible society.

## 2. *Enhancing local democracy.*

In its progress report 2019, within the section on the progress of SDG 5<sup>3</sup>, the UN underline that major gaps and challenges remain for gender equality in policy-making, with women continuing to be significantly underrepresented at all levels of political leadership, in most countries and regions of the world. Fair, inclusive and responsive local democratic governments, where women and men have equal access to decision-making has become for us, custodians of the local democracy, a major concern and one of our main priorities. Local governments must take action to improve female representation in elected, administrative and appointed office at the highest levels in our own institutions. In this sense, it is critical to support and promote laws, policies and measures to encourage and guarantee the equal participation of women in local politics. This can be achieved through a combination of anti-discrimination and positive action measures, and additional support through mentoring schemes, flexible working, and affordable childcare provision.

## 3. *Monitoring the condition of women.*

There is a clear gap on the monitoring of women representation in local political life across the world, there is no precise data. It is crucial to collect data and this is a main aim for UCLG, through its Gender Equality Strategy as the collection of sex-disaggregated data means to produce a qualitative change by developing monitoring and gender indicators, capable of informing further initiatives, actions and programmes towards the full achievement of gender equality. Local and regional governments across the world, through the regional level, have actually already started to monitor local political representation such as in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe and Latin America.

## 4. *Being at the frontline.*

The elimination of all forms of discrimination, harassment and violence against women is an unavoidable issue, and needs to be definitely resolved in all spaces, domestic and public, including transportation, school, work and public administration. The wellbeing of women conditions the future of the whole humanity, and the fully unlocking social, economic, environmental and cultural development

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<sup>3</sup> <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2019.pdf>

in a holistic way. Local governments are in position to directly tackle harmful practices against women in both the public and private spheres. Local policing and urban planning, particularly the creation and maintenance of public spaces, are essential tools in tackling violence against women. Local governments have an important role to play in identifying women and girls affected by violence and providing them with the appropriate support and services to escape it and rebuild their lives.

5. *Building capacities.*

Women and girls experience cities in different ways to men and boys. Women still face discrimination in access to income-earning opportunities, education, housing, the rule of law and participation in local governance. Moreover, there is a clear commitment of local and regional governments to support, through cultural and educational programmes, the changing conception of gender roles. Local and regional governments have the duty to ensure women's equal access to opportunities, land, economic, natural and cultural resources. Local authorities can establish mechanisms to make it easier for women to obtain basic legal documents, provide legal aid services that support women in exercising their rights, and guarantee women's participation in land governance institutions and policy-making processes.

6. *Sustaining cooperation at all levels.*

The positive impact and results of capacity-building programmes and city-to-city cooperation initiatives demonstrate how international cooperation and peer-learning are crucial for the advancement of gender equality, both at the local level and at the global level. International and national associations of local and regional governments play a crucial role by implementing special programs and projects and promoting special actions aiming at achieving gender mainstreaming and equality. UCLG, through its regional sections and Standing Committee on Gender Equality in particular, aims at facilitating the exchanges of information and experiences across the world.



**MANIFESTO ON THE FUTURE OF MOBILITY**  
**MUNICIPALIST DECLARATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ON THE RIGHT TO**  
**MOVE THROUGH TERRITORIAL SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY**

*The UCLG Community of Practice on Mobility Durban, South Africa, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019*

Since 2015 and 2016, respectively, the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda offer a common framework for all stakeholders to join their efforts in order to achieve peaceful and prosperous societies through a global agenda. The 2030 Agenda action plan for people, planet and prosperity confirms the need for joining forces, expertise and know-how through new and innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships involving national governments, local authorities, civil society, the private sector and international institutions.

We, local governments, are the public officials who are most sensitive to the everyday needs of our citizens. This is why we call for the implementation of reforms and a stronger political will to ensure sustainable urban mobility planning. Previous decades highlighted that local and regional governments are relevant social fabrics to assume and implement ambitious long-term policies closer to the citizens and their needs, to achieve sustainable development, in coordination with all stakeholders.

We, local governments, strongly believe that all people must have the “right to move” in the frame of territorial sustainable mobility, understood through the lens of sustainable development as access to transport and by the New Urban Agenda as the right to access to public goods and quality services including mobility and transportation. Regarding these reasons, we propose to you the following declaration.

**Declaration**

*Recalling* the UN General Assembly Resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015 adopting the outcome document of the United Nations Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled “*Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*” and its goals and targets,

including the Sustainable Development Goal 11 “*Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*”,

*Also recalling* the *New Urban Agenda* as a shared vision adopted during the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in Quito, Ecuador, on 20 October, 2016,

*Taking into account* the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20) and “The Future We Want” that recognized transport and mobility as central to sustainable development, and that emphasized the important role of local governments in setting a vision for sustainable cities,

*Recalling* the 2016 Secretary-General’s High-level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport (2016) on “*Mobilizing sustainable transport for development*” that urged mobility to be equitable in access, efficient, safe, and climate responsive,

*Also recalling* the 4<sup>th</sup> United Nations Environment Assembly’s UNEP/EA.4/L.4 resolution, encouraging nation states to adopt a sustainable cities comprehensive approach on sustainable mobility,

*Also based* on the principles set out in other United Cities and Local Governments declarations, such as the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City, the Joint Declaration for the Right to the City for Women, the Municipalist Declaration of Local Governments for the Right to Housing and the Right to the City,

*Recalling* the United Cities and Local Governments’ Fourth Global Agenda of Local and Regional Governments and “co-creating the urban future and the agenda of metropolises, cities and territories”, adopted in 2016, calling for sustainable and universal urban mobility,

*Recognizing* commitment towards cooperation and the exchange of knowledge and practice in urban mobility and planning policies as a way to enhance the urban fabric; especially through networks that promote upgraded transport infrastructure and services, as well as equitable, mixed, just, and inclusive cities by boosting long-term strategies on a metropolitan scale,

*Considering* the strength, talent and collective intelligence that emanate from our cities are resources that must be preserved and promoted in the name of the public interest and the urban fabric, instead of exclusively solely government-driven nor purely based on business-led schemes,

*Welcoming* the Sustainable Mobility for All initiative that brings together a diverse group of transport stakeholders, with a commitment to speak and act collectively to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and transform the transport sector,

*Recalling* the principles of UCLG's Agenda 21 for Culture and the Creative Mobilities initiative highlighting the cultural dimension of mobility, as an integral part of the fabric of the city by enhancing spaces contributing to living together, in relation to other sectoral policies,

**A. Calls upon all spheres of government to recognize a “right to move” through territorial sustainable mobility in order to initiate a fundamental reorientation of urban mobility policy by focusing on the needs of the people while ensuring its added value to city sustainability and resilience, and to:**

1. *Defend* the universal access to urban mobility requiring an appropriate response to everyone's travel needs, including women, youth, the elderly and people with disabilities in line with the Global Compact on Inclusive & Accessible Cities. No one and no place should be left behind,
2. *Underline* the social function of urban mobility when public services are affordable, economically viable, secure and intelligible, as well as the need to plan public space as a medium of conviviality, as sensitive to gender issues in a spirit of continuity and coherence with other territorial policies,
3. *Highlight* the power of urban mobility to contribute to the equality and inclusiveness of society in order to contribute towards providing access to opportunities for all and the right to the city, and in connecting cities, especially between intermediary cities and with their hinterland, thus helping to enhance the development capacity of the citizens without leaving the rural areas and small cities, necessary for global resilience,
4. *Acknowledge* the need for gender mainstreaming within urban mobility plans and to consider the role gender has within the right to move and sustainable mobility, and how mobility can aid in mitigating gender inequality,

5. *Recognize* urban mobility as a public service and as the backbone of urban and peri-urban agglomerations which must be both as sustainable and inclusive as possible to ensure resiliency and coherence with the ecosystems of the future,
6. *Emphasize* the crucial matter of road safety which must be addressed in order to avoid fatal accidents and injuries, and implement an efficient and safe public transport network,
7. *Underscore* the cultural function of urban mobility when it is designed to respect cultural and natural heritage and protect landscapes, as well as the need to promote cultural diversity and creativity of all, especially in light of public spaces,

**B. Calls upon local and regional governments to determine urban planning agendas, goals, targets and indicators to facilitate the implementation of sustainable urban mobility plans, SDG-11 and the New Urban Agenda and, if possible, monitor and report on their results at the multilateral level, and to**

1. *Call on all spheres of government* to implement urban planning policies in favour of the compactness of urban fabrics to support mixed uses and allow for the return to the model of accessible, walkable and bikeable cities that are provided with diversified and fair urban mobility services,
2. *Advocate* for operational plans adopted through participatory planning processes with a focus on accessibility and reliability and not only on flow capacity and speed,
3. *Stresses* the importance of cross-cutting and preventive approaches, including ecosystem-based ones, on health and well-being, and air quality to address climate change,
4. *Commit* to improve and expand existing transport infrastructure and establishing integrated public transport systems, such as High-Level Service bus and tramway lines, particularly in peripheral and intermediate urban areas, to facilitate mobility in urban-rural corridors,
5. *Look forward* to developing tools to co-produce public-private procurement interests, enhancing alternative urban mobility, triggering mixed uses, and green mobility ecosystems by democratizing sustainable public transport in all urban areas,
6. *Suggests* UCLG in the organisation of workshops with volunteer cities in terms of urban mobility, in order to enhance benchmarking and good-practice sharing, and develop thematic

toolboxes at the disposal to the Community of Practice on Mobility members,

**C. Calls for the recognition of legitimacy of local and regional governments within urban mobility and planning policies, and**

1. *Calls for adequate financing and fiscal mechanisms* to allocate more resources and commit increased investment to strengthen public transportation in all territories,
2. *Invites* international organizations, as well as national and local governments, and all other relevant stakeholders, including private and industrial sectors, non-governmental organizations and the scientific and academic community, to support, as appropriate, innovative projects to improve systems and networks of transportation. This includes supporting social and awareness campaigns, database protection and transparency, research in the areas of information and communication technologies (ICT), geographic information systems (GIS) and the decarbonisation of urban mobility,
3. *Calls on* local and regional governments to come together to strengthen their advocacy work in public interests, such as public transport area with the joint UCLG and International Association of Public Transport (UITP) Mobility Champions Community initiative.

# MANIFESTO ON THE FUTURE OF CULTURE

## CULTURAL POLICIES TO PLAY A KEY ROLE, LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY

*There is no path to peace. Peace is the path*  
Mahatma Gandhi

Culture has a vital role in our lives. This fact has become evident in the last decades and its articulation in global narratives relating culture and development has improved. Today, connections between culture and sustainable development are increasingly included in discourses and policies that will have to lead humanity during the next decades.

A good example can be found in the Statement of the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments on the occasion of the recent Sustainable Development Goals Summit (New York, 24-25 September 2019), which we are pleased to reproduce because it is very clear: “We commit to promote culture as the fourth pillar of development and as a core component of local identity, and its role as a strand of global solidarity, and as a vector for peace and human rights. We further commit to foster locally relevant cultural policies and programmes on memory, heritage, creativity, diversity and knowledge which are key for local sustainable development.”

Today, in Durban, we would like to develop this statement further.

The crises we all suffer as one humanity are severe and difficult to overcome. Indeed, humanity suffers a climate crisis, and it is also the word “crisis” that better describes the severe social inequalities and breakdowns, the unbalanced economic realities and corruption or the forced migrations and expulsions... Besides, we notice the existence of discourses that threaten diversity, aim at dividing people and imposing identities, and neglect the rights of women, youth, indigenous peoples, minorities and vulnerable communities. We are aware that a hegemonic, global and commodified culture threatens cultural diversity, and that a relativism that violates fundamental human rights to maintain cultural characteristics by imposing intolerance, monolithic thinking, political or religious totalitarianism also exists. Yes, humanity also suffers a cultural crisis. In this context, we believe that culture should never serve as an instrument for ideological

indoctrination or political control, but should be the quintessential space for freedom, critical thinking, and even dissent.

We must meet, share, dialogue and create together the future we want.

We are convinced that culture is an unequivocal part of the solution to humanity's present day challenges.

We must move, and we must move together. In order to move, we need policies, yes, we need cultural policies to provide our societies with the tools for dialogue, coexistence and freedoms. This requires active participation of communities in public debates, and an open governance of culture, at local, national and international levels. This also requires respect for cultural diversity, as a source of knowledge, as a vital element of citizenship and as a component for peaceful resolution of conflicts. Cultural policies also include how we can imagine the future together, that is, promoting human creativity as an aspect of human experience and a source of progress and innovation. We need to reconnect culture and education to support the acquisition of cultural skills and knowledge. We all need to live in meaningful places, and thus the potential of cultural policies to promote a sense of place, identity and belonging that leaves no place behind is essential; therefore, the integration of heritage and culture in urban planning, needs to include appropriate cultural impact assessment methods.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the New Urban Agenda are global frames that we need to explore further. We invite all actors related to culture to become more active in national and local plans to implement the Agenda 2030 and the SDG, because the success of this global commitment also stands on the cultural dimension of sustainable development being explicit and operational. Therefore, we invite cultural sectors, institutions and organisations to strengthen their own efforts to the response to our common challenges as one humanity, and be bolder and more explicit in addressing human rights, gender equality, inequalities and climate change.

At the same time, we call global leaders to be bold and embrace a real global conversation on culture in sustainable development, which should unfold with truly ambitious programmes of international cultural cooperation. People needs to participate in cultural life. No progress can be achieved unless all places around the world are recognized with their dignity and their capacity to interact with others on an equal

basis, in a fair cultural globalization. Humanity will not progress, and crises will not be overcome unless cultural policies at a local, national and global scale become explicit and operational.

We are convinced that cultural development and the full exercise of cultural rights by peoples, communities, and individuals are fundamental acts of peace. While these may be fragile and subtle, they are also the most critical elements for human progress.



## ***Draft* MANIFESTO ECOLOGY FOR THE FUTURE**

### **OUR COMMITMENT IN HELPING SHAPE THE REDEFINITION OF THE ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION.**

The world we live in today has no boundaries. All facets of life are interconnected and interrelate to each other as do organisms within an ecosystem. Within this context, the ecological transition is the product of the relationships that we as a society have with each other and with our natural world. Given this link between societies and the natural world, the ecological transition could only be built on principles of solidarity and territories as the living spaces of human values and actions.

Solidarity is a principle that should characterize not only the ecological transition but also the way in which ecology should be viewed in the future: by including all citizens of the world and all spheres of government to work together and to share responsibility in the needed ecological transition. Solidarity principles need a unified vision between all local actors whereby each one's responsibilities is structured via multi-governance mechanisms. This unified vision is empowered by the 2030 Agenda and other global agendas. Said mechanisms should reflect the different dimensions of this shared vision redefined by the climate emergency.

Today's climate emergency is the departure of policy making and ecological measures. They have to consider the natural world and,

- Climate Change and local and natural resources;
- The quality and protection of the natural environment (air, land, water);
- Structure of our society and production and consumption patterns;
- Size of cities, segregation and the rural-urban continuum;
- Food Security and guaranteeing subsistence;
- Multi-stakeholder solutions and knowledge sharing;
- Humans and ecosystems and the role of solidarity.

(Guiding Principles)

1. We call on the Cities of the world to make their policies known; concerning Climate and the Ecological transition;
2. We call upon the citizens of the world to rethink their daily patterns of living and life systems to center them around a logic of balance between consumption and production, as one of the paradigms to the Ecological transition to be fair, honest and equal;
3. We call upon national governments to empower these paradigms and ensure that complementarity between National and local policies is structuring the implementation of the 2030 agenda; especially the SDGs linked to Ecology;
4. We call upon all Climate driven initiatives by International Institutions to integrate in it solidarity as a transversal paradigm that can ensure the link between all levels of governance and citizens as well.

# MANIFESTO ON THE FUTURE OF ADEQUATE HOUSING

## RECLAIMING PUBLIC AUTHORITY TO FULFIL THE COMMUNITIES' RIGHT TO ADEQUATE HOUSING

While global real estate is valued at US\$ 217 trillion, adequate and affordable housing is increasingly out of reach for hundreds of millions of people across the world. This housing reality affects a large portion of the population. Homelessness is on the rise almost everywhere in the world, forced evictions continue unabated and marginalized communities find themselves in increasingly precarious living situations. While the most marginalized are clearly and deeply affected by the housing crisis, it is increasingly reaching the middle and upper income households. In response, the world constituency of local and regional governments, the UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing Leilani Farha and the Global Platform to the Right to the City rallied since 2016 (Habitat III and UCLG Bogota Commitment) to promote the right to adequate housing, turning it into one of the main priorities of local and global agendas.

Since then, local governments across the world have made collective efforts to raise awareness on housing issues in the urban context (including homelessness, inadequate housing, forced evictions, social and spatial segregation, real estate speculation leading to the financialization of housing, unaffordable housing, etc.). Through these efforts, they have shown their willingness to explore policies aimed at securing the right to housing. In reclaiming housing as a human right, local governments worldwide are committing to improving local action, policy innovation and practical implementation of the right to housing, while exposing the dramatic consequences caused by the financialization of housing.

Over 40 local governments across the world have committed to The Shift and signed the Declaration **“Cities for Adequate Housing”** (2018). This is the first and only step at the international level regarding such issues.

Building on their commitments to The Shift and the Declaration, local, metropolitan and regional governments are: collectively claiming more power to regulate the housing markets; attracting more funding towards affordable housing options in addition to improving public and social housing stocks; creating more

tools to co-produce public-private community-driven alternative housing; developing urban planning strategies that combine adequate housing with inclusive and sustainable neighborhoods; and enhancing local governments and city network cooperation in residential strategies.

We, local governments gathered on the occasion of the 2019 World Congress of UCLG - World Summit of Local and Regional Governments:

1. **Recognize the right to adequate housing** and its seven criteria (security of tenure; availability of services; habitability; affordability; accessibility; location; cultural adequacy) as the main framework to advance local rights based housing strategies, as required by our commitment to The Shift and the UCLG Declaration “Cities for Adequate Housing”.

2. Acknowledge the **UCLG Declaration “Cities for Adequate Housing”** and its five strategic axis as a key framework for the development of UCLG’s strategic priorities on housing in the coming period. We are willing to develop further its contents and to include new advocacy and policy perspectives that better reflect the existing thematic and regional diversity in the framework of our organization. The UCLG Community of Practice on Housing will allow for the exchange of concrete practices, as well as the collective advancement of the implementation of the right to adequate housing.

3. Recognize local and regional governments are increasingly adopting an **integrated approach to housing** challenges that recalls its social function and its essential contribution to fulfil the citizen’s right to the city. We believe housing is linked to many other critical human rights issues, such as access to basic services, non-discrimination or gender equality. The 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda are also opportunities to strengthen an integrated approach to the right to adequate housing.

5. Call on national governments to develop rights based housing strategies with the full involvement and collaboration of local governments. The allocation of financial resources is a core element of cooperation. We also encourage the international partners, donors and other relevant stakeholders to localize finance in order to advance the implementation of the right to adequate housing.

6. Commit to **keep building on the landmarks of The Shift, as well as** our partnership with the UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing. We equally acknowledge the important contribution played by global civil society and social movements rallied for the right to housing and the right to the city.

We call for an enhanced cooperation between local governments to further envision the achievement of a global Housing agenda in the frame of the 2030 Agenda and the next implementation decade.

## MANIFESTO ON THE FUTURE OF BIODIVERSITY

### ADVOCACY ROADMAP FOR LOCAL & SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE POST-2020 GBF

#### ICLEI's Draft proposal to the Special Session on Biodiversity at the UCLG Congress

**Cities and regions called to engage in, and contribute to, the Post-2020 GBF, also referred to as the “New Deal for Nature”**

We live in the urban century and find ourselves at a **crossroads as we face a climate emergency coupled with the destruction of the natural world**. Collectively, all levels of local and regional governments hold the key to changing this current negative trajectory and to achieving the global sustainability agenda with its associated SDG's.

These governments make and execute decisions daily, which impact directly on nature and on urban communities' well-being and resilience to extreme weather events and multiplier effects of climate change. The urban and peri-urban footprint extends beyond city boundaries as the consequences of local government decisions and actions are often felt far beyond its judiciary boundaries, while urban-rural linkages are increasingly recognized as vital for effective multi-level governance options required to drive systemic and collective change to set us on a much-needed and urgent new sustainable development trajectory.

The year 2020 presents a **unique opportunity** and **urgent necessity** for nations to adopt a 'New Deal for Nature' under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) that will replace the current Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and most of its' associated “Aichi targets”, which come to an end in 2020. The new global agreement is set to be adopted during the 15th Conference of Parties (COP), in Kunming, China in late October 2020. The CBD COP 15 is increasingly heralded as the “Paris Moment for Nature”.

To this end the COP adopted Decision 14/34 at COP 14, held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt in November 2018, which called for a comprehensive, inclusive, transparent and participatory process for the preparation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

This Decision urges **local and regional governments to actively engage and contribute to the process of developing a robust post-2020 global biodiversity framework** in order to foster wide ownership of the framework to be agreed and strong support for its immediate implementation. The Secretariat of the CBD (SCBD) has further encouraged key actors, such as local and subnational governments, the business sector, the youth, indigenous and local communities, academia and the research sector, non-governmental organizations, to organize their own post-2020 advocacy roadmaps and events to allow for maximum collective engagement in the preparatory processes ahead of COP15.

ICLEI, with the support and active engagement of its partners **Regions4, the European Committee of Regions** and several others, committed to continue its advocacy work - which started already ahead of the CBD COP8 - and to develop, coordinate and lead a **roadmap for local and regional government engagement and contributions to the post-2020 GBF process**. This commitment was made in the *Sharm El-Sheikh Communiqué for Local and Subnational Action for Nature and People* adopted at the 6<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments and subsequently presented to, and welcomed by the CBD Parties in the COP 14 closing plenary. ICLEI accepted the role of continuing to convene the voice of our local and regional constituency into the post-2020 process, with continued support and engagement by partner networks such as Regions4 and the European Committee of Regions, who have continued to active alongside ICLEI in this field over the last years.

The implementation of this roadmap is currently well underway and has resulted in a series of advocacy interventions such as

- post-2020 consultation events at all levels of government and among key network and other partners
- regular monthly webinars hosted by ICLEI
- the development of a draft position statement to be presented to the 2nd Open Ended Working Group meeting of the CBD in February 2020 in Kunming, China, currently underway.

For example, ICLEI, the SCBD and the Post-2020 Biodiversity framework- EU Support Project, co-convened a thematic session entitled “Living in Harmony with Nature,” in Paris in June this year, which sought to strengthen the momentum for a post-2020 global biodiversity framework among local and subnational governments. In July, ICLEI, the Post-2020 Biodiversity framework- EU Support Project, the SCBD, Aburra

Valley Metropolitan Authority and the Humboldt Institute co-convened an event on “Unlocking the power of metropolises to mainstream biodiversity and ecosystem services for nature and people” in Medellin, Colombia. This resulted in the “Aburrá Valley - Medellin Declaration of Metropolitan Areas to the post – 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework”, which was adopted by the 17 metropolitan area authorities and 27 other local and subnational governments from 12 countries that attended the event. ICLEI floated a draft position statement, *Shaping the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework: A Ten-Point Framework for Subnational Biodiversity Action*, at the **first meeting of the CBD Open-ended Working Group in Nairobi**, Kenya in August. This draft statement was agreed to by the currently active local and subnational partners and together we committed to develop and refine it further into a consolidated and collective statement reflecting the commitments and ambitions of local and subnational government towards the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

### **Proposal for Adoption by the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments**

In conclusion, it is hereby proposed that ICLEI, through its Cities Biodiversity Center and supported by its World Secretariat, leads the advocacy work and contribution on behalf of the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments **towards the negotiation and implementation of a ‘New Deal for Nature’** to ensure that the role of local and subnational governments is firmly entrenched in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

ICLEI, is ideally placed to fulfil such a role through its proud history of advocacy in the CBD; its recognized technical leadership in the biodiversity sector; and its existing strong partnerships and relationships in the biodiversity context with several members of the GTF such as Regions4, the European Committee of Regions, UCLG and others, as well as with the SCBD and other global partners such as the IUCN, and networks such as the Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets (GoLS). These networks and organizations are already actively engaged, through our collective roadmap, in mobilizing their respective constituencies and in contributing to the development of a collective and consolidated ongoing engagement on behalf of local and subnational governments towards shaping the new Global Biodiversity Framework which fully recognizes, values and enables our collective role in the formulation and implementation thereof, ahead of, and beyond 2020.

If mandated to fulfil this role on behalf of the GTF, ICLEI hereby commits to work with, and enable the engagement of all interested GTF partners, and to regularly report to the GTF on progress achieved.



# MANIFESTO ON THE FUTURE OF TRANSPARENCY AND OPEN GOVERNMENT

## TRANSPARENCY TO REGAIN TRUST

There is a clear lack of trust of communities in the institutions that represent them, and governing systems are being challenged. The local and territorial level is critical to rethink, and to reshape the governance systems into more participatory, accountable and transparent ones.

The relationship of trust among national governments and the citizens needs to be reciprocated in order to carry out the ambitious goals of the 2030 Agenda, and this can only be carried out through holding governments accountable, and using the tools at our disposal to demand transparency in all aspects of the decision-making processes, and use existing democratic mechanisms to be able to look at how governments act.

The barrage of new technologies has also given way to the rise of fake news, and targeted political campaigns of misinformation that strive to manipulate and to prove that public opinion can, and often has, been corrupted through technology. The future of transparency needs to have this in mind, and bring about a change in corporate culture opening a window into how the world operates and bring about changes in leadership.

### **Communities shaping technology**

It cannot be up to the market alone to determine our political preferences, which is why transparency means that it is up to all of us, together, to harness innovation to reverse this trend in the digital age, and to scrutinize decision-makers and companies, and we must be active enough as a civil society and as organized citizens to take advantage of these opportunities and shape technology to ensure transparent decision-making processes.

The future of transparency will not only deal with the relationship between communities and their elected representatives and institutions, but it also needs to ensure that we push companies, and academia,

towards more responsible behavior, and to ensure that the relationship between governments and the private sectors is open and transparent.

### **Building trust through participatory and accountable governance democracy**

The principles of transparency and participation are a cornerstone for building relationships with our citizens, and a guarantee that our communities' needs will be reflected in the public decision-making processes. This is why we believe transparency is integral for the achievement of SDG 16, and thus essential for the achievement of the entire 2030 Agenda.

Citizens are increasingly calling for the transformation of our systems of governance, and to respond to these calls, we need to rebuild trust between institutions and citizens. The achievement of the global development agendas depends on transparent relationships between institutions and their citizens that go beyond tools such as fact-checking our representatives, but that consider transparency as a part of a truly participatory process, integrated in every step of the decision-making process, and that allows for the voices of its citizens to shape the decisions that affect them the most.

### **Our Calls**

The above is why **we call** on the local and regional governments around the world, gathered within our municipal movement, **to foster elements of transparency** to open not just our institutions, but our ways of co-creating policies, to the world.

We also call to **create enabling conditions** for our local and regional governments to implement transparency in their territories.

We call for **mainstreaming sustainable policies** that encourage a culture of disclosure among local and regional governments and their partners.

# ***MANIFESTO ON THE FUTURE OF MIGRATION***

## **OUR COMMITMENTS TO SUPPORT ALL PEOPLE TO FULFILL THEIR ASPIRATIONS EVERYWHERE**

### **Migration is a natural phenomenon**

Migration is a natural phenomenon that has shaped our world throughout history and acts as a key factor behind the urban expansion we have witnessed over the past decades. Cities, where human mobility has converged for centuries, have been shaped culturally, socially and politically by migration.

The benefits of intercultural exchanges and socio-economic progress are only possible through inclusion and social cohesion and lack of these can create tensions. Local and regional governments have a critical role to play in the construction of inclusive and pluralistic societies, not only through catalyzing dialogue but also through guaranteeing access to basic services and fostering policies that will make newcomers welcome.

The deployment of the Right to the City for all plays a critical role in leaving no one and no place behind and is the sole antidote to the rise in discriminatory and xenophobic discourse.

### **Local Governments are global actors**

Despite the limited regulatory frameworks and mandates, local governments have rose to be key actors in the governance of migration influencing global trends. Committed to the effective implementation of a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, local authorities call on national and international authorities to engage in an open and in-depth dialogue on possible ways of working together to achieve the global development and migration agendas.

### **The role of first responders and the need for a whole of government approach**

As first responders to the effects of population flows, be it internal or external, and as the level of government that welcomes newcomers as neighbours, local and regional governments cannot, and are not, mere implementing partners. They are ready to contribute with their experiences and values to strengthening pluralistic and effective partnerships to broaden forms of political and social participation for all, regardless of their origin and condition.

In close partnership with national governments, local communities, and the international institutions they are committed to, are contributing to a paradigm change and implementing the concept of citizenship to that of neighbors beyond borders.

We confirm our commitment to the 2018 Marrakech Declaration of Mayors where we stated our willingness of local governments to work for "inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities" with a commitment to "leave no one behind".

### **Concrete mechanisms and new alliances key**

We further call for the development of strong alliances with actors from civil society, the private sector or any other field who share the desire to contribute to protecting people who move in search of a better future.

### **UCLG Commitments**

We mandate our World Organization of Local and Regional Governments to ensure these commitments are embedded in our global positions on the development agenda, from the 2030 Agenda to the climate action which will spur increased population flows during the coming decades.

We commit to working with sister organizations and other networks to move these messages forward and as a member of the Mayors' Mechanism, UCLG calls for concrete steps forward in the acknowledgement of the role of local and regional governments in global forums on migration governance, and in particular at the Global Forum on Migration and Development to be held in Quito from 19 to 22 November.

We acknowledge the unique opportunity of the Mayors' Mechanism and its integration into the Global Forum on Migration and Development ahead of the Global Forum for the Review of International Migration, which will evaluate for the first time the implementation of the Global Compact in 2022.

In Durban, the launch of the Call to Action by the GFMD Mayors' Mechanism marks the beginning of a collective effort to give visibility to local actions with a global impact.

We recognize the potential UCLG strategy on migration policies for building a fairer and inclusive world through local democracy.

# ***MANIFESTO ON THE FUTURE OF RESILIENCE***

## **A TENTATIVE NEW UNDERSTANDING OF RESILIENCE, THAT LOOKS BEYOND GROWTH**

Humankind has been looking at growth as a paradigm that is inextricably linked to development.

However, growth and development don't go hand in hand automatically.

Growth, unlike development, have negatively affected resiliency when man's settlements became being produced as systemic forms of development, both urban and economic. Similarly, unlike development, growth adopted the meaning of promoting inequality when certain parts of society have their methods of subsistence fulfilled and others do not. Furthermore, growth became meaning favoring consumption over conservation.

Today, this **unsustainable** paradigm of growth does not characterize development. Development is a model of improving the conditions of life and obtaining a system of living and subsistence.

In this manner, to be consistent with today's understanding of sustainable development, growth should be about growing in our system of life, in our daily comfort, and daily methods of subsistence into the limits of what the planet has to offer. It should take into account the needs of future generations, building an equitable future for all, providing for suitable economic situations, and taking care of our past and traditions.

Within this context, risks, disasters, and crises have acted as a first alarm to the planet and humankind that growth and development must go hand in hand in the name of subsistence for all and in leaving no one and no place behind.

This concept of growth and development, linked to solidarity and equity, is the concept that should be the foundation of our understanding of resilience.

### **The existing Global Resilience Agenda**

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) has been an essential step to bring together forces and attention to disaster risk reduction.

The United Nations Agenda on disaster risk reduction has also highlight the important role that local and regional governments play in protecting people, their communities, and their assets, whether economic, social or cultural.

As a concept, the global agenda of resilience has aided in changing global attitudes and raise awareness about the way development, and growth in the same manner, can increase hazard exposure, accentuate vulnerabilities, and affect the adapting and coping capacities of communities. We, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) therefore continue in supporting the making cities resilient campaign.

The 2030 agenda has also brought a transformational spirit by bringing forward "sustainable development" through goals that would bring a kind of equity to the world, based on principles and values that are to be shared by all of us as a collective whole.

### **Beyond our understanding of resilience:**

For future generations' and key ecosystems' ability to survive, we need to overcome the current paradigm of growth that is focused on economic growth. Experts on the limits of our planet's boundaries are preaching to stop the present uncalculated modes of development in order to ensure that it guarantees equity, responsibility and solidarity.

## **A paradigm for humankind**

While the UN agenda for disasters has been launched with the idea of generating a world dynamic around the planet's first signs of emergency, we, cities gathered to ask International Institutions to take into consideration the long run of the planet, knowing that humanity must change its behavior with resources, towards nature, and towards the way the growth is currently brought about.

In view of the increasing impact of climate change, the toll of conflicts, and young generations increasingly calling for action to protect their future, a broader conceptualization of resilience can help local and regional governments confront today's challenges and the protection of common goods.

As part of recent discussions around the relevance of the new Declaration of Humankind Rights for local and regional governments in UCLG's Policy Councils, four principles and values were put forward as being a basis for the Resilience re-definition: intergenerational responsibility, equity, dignity and continuity.

The role of local governments is the missing link that can bring together civil society, citizens, and the private sector, with national and international actors. A life centred approach will help focus on humankind development as one development, in harmony with nature and its resources. The focus is now beginning to be on health and wellbeing as outcomes of values and principles, like the value of cultural and natural assets.

## **The role of cities in the future**

Cities, and their local governments, have been able to materialize a world-spanning mobilization for the 2030 agenda, and it has been widely recognized that without them and their local governments, the implementation of the agenda could not occur.

Local and regional governments are taking the lead in mitigating and adapting to climate change, improving livability of cities and reducing their ecological footprint. "Nature based" management is redefining the value and relationship with natural resources and the linkages between rural and urban areas in the territory.

Local leaders have a significant role to play in driving the added value that cities can bring to the planet's resilience and the conservation of natural and cultural heritage.

Cities are a key factor in this tentative re-definition of Resilience or the Resilient growth: this falls into the agreement that a transparent management of the resources in respect of the planet boundaries is a critical key to saving the planet.

In this frame, cities have a true role to play, as they are the key space where human life unfolds in the planet, with only 30% of humans living in the rural world in the near future.

The city, as a central place of growth, shouldn't be seen as an extension of occupation of soil, but rather as an intelligent management of production and consumption patterns, directly linked with solidarity, responsibility and equity.

**Therefore**, we, local and regional governments, gathered in the UCLG World Congress 2019,

Recognize and acknowledge the work done by the UNDRR Agenda on disasters and we stay committed to work in the making the cities resilient campaign. We recognize the role of the 2030 Agenda in building a global consciousness that we commit to transform into action for the Planet's resilience and the wellbeing of life on Earth

Call on the International institutions to take this new understanding of Resilience as a key element in the development of public policies.

Call on the new digital paradigm by local governments as tool for smart territorial management to support resilience.

Call on the municipal movement to ensure that solidarity, equity and responsibility are taken into consideration when defining policies at the local, national and international level for the benefit of humankind and resilience.

Call on cities to develop a dialogue between them to ensure that this vision becomes a shared responsibility, generating mechanisms to monitor and follow up on this understanding,

Call upon the Mayors and Presidents of Regions to work together towards amplifying this voice, and making sure that this is heard at all levels of government and through the media,

Call on the local leaders to take up their responsibility and play their role to make their cities and regions an added value to global resilience and articulate the capacity of society to prepare to, respond to and recover from its shocks.

Call for the recognition of the Humankind Declaration by all local and regional governments, and inviting them to lobby for the Declaration, its principles and its values.