

The SDGs and the New Urban Agenda will achieve nothing if we fail to strengthen local democracy

Enviado por a.salas el Mar, 02/08/2016 - 13:08

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On the eve of Habitat III, local and regional governments highlight the role of transparency and accountability in sustainable development and commit to go further in fostering local democracy.

The success of the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda will depend on effective, accountable and transparent institutions. That's why **local democracy** must be the foundation of both agendas. Because it is at local level, where government is closest to the people, that citizens engage with their institutions every day.

Local and regional governments across the world are working to become more transparent and accountable than ever before. We're making budget, procurement and policy-making decisions public. We're implementing new codes of ethics for elected and appointed officials. We're introducing oversight to tackle corruption. We're allowing citizens to access and re-use public information by harnessing the power of open data. We're also exchanging experiences at national and international level so that we can learn from one another's successes.

Strong institutions are open, democratic institutions, capable of listening to citizens and responding to local concerns and priorities.

We'll discuss these challenges at the UCLG Congress in Bogotá in a **Policy Dialogue on "Stronger, More Accountable Local and Regional Governments"** on 12 October. Confirmed panelists so far include Mayor of Dakar, Khalifa Sall, Mayor of Diyarbakır, Gültan Kışanak, and Director of the UN Millennium Campaign, Mitchell Toomey.

Of course, effective local governance is impossible without appropriate powers and resources. **That's why UCLG and the Global Taskforce are calling for Habitat III to strengthen local and regional governments** through decentralization, capacity building, and investment and financing.

If you agree that that world needs **stronger, more accountable local and regional governments**, join our social media campaign using the hashtags #UCLGCongress, #Habitat3 and #SDG16

Resources:

- [Policy Dialogue: Stronger, More Accountable Local and Regional Governments](#)
- [Global Taskforce recommendations for Habitat III](#)
- [SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions](#)
- [The SDGs: What Local Governments Need to Know](#)
- [International Observatory on Participatory Democracy](#)
- **[Global Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralization](#)**

Follow the conversation on Twitter and Facebook

Local governments commit to drive democratic accountability and achieve #SDG16 #UCLGCongress <https://t.co/NUDfIMf55c> pic.twitter.com/Lu8HsdoZWF

— United Cities (@uclg_org) 3 de agosto de 2016

We need stronger, more accountable #localgov to achieve #SDG16 and #Habitat3 <https://t.co/XpmtAaQTxT> #UCLGCongress pic.twitter.com/rgwTplaOVS

— GOLD (@GoldUCLG) 3 de agosto de 2016

Strong institutions listen to women & girls #Habitat3 #SDG16 <https://t.co/VrPLCEYevJ> #UCLGCongress pic.twitter.com/xv44XmRqXd

— UCLG Women (@uclg_women) 3 de agosto de 2016

Check out what #localgov are doing to strengthen local democracy and achieve #SDG16 <https://t.co/Wj7HKFZZ6y> #UCLGCongress #Habitat3

— GOLD (@GoldUCLG) 3 de agosto de 2016

Transparent & participatory local budgets to make #Right2City effective -key issue of #Habitat3 & #UCLGCongress pic.twitter.com/QeRgTaU5xu

— UCLG_cisd (@uclg_cisd) 3 de agosto de 2016

Mayors @kas_sall & @kisanakgultan will share experiences of local democracy at #UCLGCongress <https://t.co/NUDfIMf55c> <pic.twitter.com/IZ2fMlertv>

— United Cities (@uclg_org) 3 de agosto de 2016

Across the world #Localgov are innovating to make policies with citizens. Hear their stories at the #UCLGCongress <pic.twitter.com/fkeeDGZvSj>

— Metropolis (@metropolis_org) 3 de agosto de 2016

Mayors @kas_sall & @kisanakgultan will share experiences of promoting local democracy at #UCLGCongress #SDG16 <pic.twitter.com/oT9Q7FLc1v>

— CGLU Afrique (@UCLGAfrica) 3 de agosto de 2016

Check out what #localgov are doing to strengthen local democracy and achieve #SDG16 <https://t.co/Wj7HKFZZ6y> #UCLGCongress #Habitat3

— GOLD (@GoldUCLG) 3 de agosto de 2016

#Localgov are working to become more accountable to our citizens. Find out how at the #UCLGCongress #SDG16 <pic.twitter.com/uak62EVhoL>

— UCLG Mediterranean (@uclg_med) 3 de agosto de 2016

Enlaces

[1]

<https://www.bogota2016.uclg.org/en/sessions/policy-dialogue-stronger-more-accountable-local-and-regional-governments>

[2]

<http://www.gtf2016.org/#!Global-Taskforce-publishes-key-recommendations-for-Habitat-III/cjtl/570f9b580cf2d6bf6ee4e9e6>

[3] <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg16>

[4] <https://www.uclg.org/en/media/news/sustainable-development-goals-what-local-governments-need-know>

[5] <http://www.oidp.net/experiences/>

[6] <http://www.gold.uclg.org/>

[7] <https://twitter.com/hashtag/SDG16?src=hash>

[8] <https://twitter.com/hashtag/UCLGCongress?src=hash>

[9] <https://t.co/NUDfIMf55c>

- [10] <https://t.co/Lu8HsdoZWF>
- [11] https://twitter.com/uclg_org/status/760777211389612032
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- [25] https://twitter.com/kas_sall
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- [35] https://twitter.com/uclg_med/status/760864238101467137