

# Local governments believe in the power of public space

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#Listen2Cities #PublicSpace #UCLGcongress

**Public space** has been undervalued for too long. Let's put it at the centre of urban planning!

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# Public space has been undervalued for too long. Let's put it at the centre of urban planning!

Public space is a powerful tool to drive local economies, promote cultural expression, empower women and tackle social segregation. That's why local and regional governments are working to put public space on the international agenda and to learn from one another about how to harness public space to improve the lives of their citizens.

After years of being undervalued, 2015 saw unprecedented international recognition of the role of public spaces in sustainable development in the 2030 Agenda, thanks, in part, to the advocacy of local government networks. Target 7 of SDG 11 on sustainable cities and human settlements is to “provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.” Public space is also a key component to achieving SDGs 3, 5, 6 and 13. The Habitat III Conference in Quito is set to reinforce the role of public space in sustainable urban development still further in October of this year.

But local governments are one step ahead of the international agenda on public space. Over recent years, the UCLG Committee on Urban Strategic Planning (CUSP) has been organizing peer learning activities to allow local governments to learn from on-the-ground experiences of planning and managing urban spaces across the world.

*“A learning event enables cities to learn innovative ways to engage public in the conversations about public space”* Puvendra Akkiah, Technical Chair of the UCLG Committee on Urban Strategic Planning, City of Durban.

CUSP has organized international peer learning events on public spaces in Durban, Porto Alegre and Blantyre. The experience helped Porto Alegre to promote spontaneous initiatives in public space, triggered the engagement of Blantyre in smart cities initiatives and helped Durban put people first in the creation of public space.

The Committee's next learning session on public space will be held at the **World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders in Bogotá (12 to 15 October 2016)**. Don't miss this opportunity to share and gain knowledge on public

space and its role as a social, economic, environmental, spatial and cultural lever for local governments.

If you believe that quality, accessible and safe public spaces are a powerful tool to make our cities better places to live, join the conversation on Twitter using the hashtags #UCLGCongress and #PublicSpace.

## Resources:

- [Think piece on Public Space](#)
- [UCLG Public Space drawing](#)
- [Searching for the promised land of Public Space](#)
- [Public Space and citizenship](#)
- [Public Space as a generator of growth in african cities](#)

## Follow the conversation on Twitter and Facebook

Participation is the cornerstone of #PublicSpace development. Join us at #UCLGCongress <https://t.co/G2HdafKljM> [pic.twitter.com/HjSjcGY6JD](https://pic.twitter.com/HjSjcGY6JD)

— uclg\_cusp (@uclg\_cusp) 17 de agosto de 2016

Women need safe #publicspace that gives them freedom in the city. Learn about gendered planning at the #UCLGCongress <https://t.co/dRTDgbB6uZ>

— UCLG Women (@uclg\_women) 17 de agosto de 2016

#Localgov will share their experiences on creating #publicspace by and for citizens at the #UCLGCongress <https://t.co/0GZ7ZVnIDN> #SDG11

— GOLD (@GoldUCLG) 17 de agosto de 2016

There is no public space without community and no community without #PublicSpace . Come and share at #UCLGCongress . [pic.twitter.com/TUFvkStYpr](https://pic.twitter.com/TUFvkStYpr)

— uclg\_cusp (@uclg\_cusp) 17 de agosto de 2016

#SupportRight2City and free #publicspace for democracy, inclusion and opportunities for all in #UCLGCongress . [pic.twitter.com/6gRQ2iGGjz](https://pic.twitter.com/6gRQ2iGGjz)

— UCLG\_cisdp (@uclg\_cisdp) 17 de agosto de 2016

Cities must harness [#publicspace](#) for inclusion and opportunities for all in the face of privatization [#UCLGCongress](#) <https://t.co/Goh3sy29mq>

— UCLG Finances (@LocalFinances) 17 de agosto de 2016

[#LocalGov](#) can support [#SDG11](#) by including [#PublicSpace](#) in their strategies. [#UCLGcongress](#) <https://t.co/UE1Vp1dIjj> <pic.twitter.com/oeHhMbn7Fe>

— uclg\_cusp (@uclg\_cusp) 17 de agosto de 2016

[#PublicSpace](#) is a powerful tool to drive [#local](#) [#economies](#) & tackle social segregation [#UCLGCongress](#) [#Habitat3](#) <pic.twitter.com/8C2at8wwXw>

— PLATFORMA (@Platforma4Dev) 17 de agosto de 2016

[#LocalGov](#) believe in the power of [#PublicSpace](#) .Tell [@uclg\\_cusp](#) about your city <https://t.co/3VJ4ZjGePb> [#UCLGCongress](#) <pic.twitter.com/7bwfzsjrTm>

— United Cities (@uclg\_org) 17 de agosto de 2016

We love these graphics from [@uclg\\_org](#) showing how much [#localgiv](#) care about [#UCLGCongress](#) [#PublicSpace](#) [#Habitat3](#) <pic.twitter.com/Fu1ES9l144>

— CGLU Afrique (@UCLGAfrica) 17 de agosto de 2016

We must create safe, green [#PublicSpace](#) that is accessible to all. Learn how at the [#UCLGCongress](#) ! <https://t.co/9EzsTAZ2ZD>

— UCLG World Summit (@UCLGBogota2016) 17 de agosto de 2016

[@UNHABITAT](#) Global [#publicspace](#) toolkit: [#UCLGCongress](#) [#Habitat3](#) <https://t.co/zhQ1cOotPH>

— MILE (@eThekwiniMILE) 17 de agosto de 2016

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[#UCLGCongress](#) [#Habitat3](#) [pic.twitter.com/8C2at8wwXw](https://pic.twitter.com/8C2at8wwXw)

— PLATFORMA (@Platforma4Dev) 17 de agosto de 2016

## Enlaces

- [1] [https://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/uclg-public\\_space-think\\_piece.pdf](https://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/uclg-public_space-think_piece.pdf)
- [2] <http://www.learning.uclg.org/file/uclg-public-space-drawing>
- [3] <http://www.learning.uclg.org/file/searching-promised-land-public-space>
- [4] <http://www.learning.uclg.org/file/public-space-and-citizenship>
- [5] <http://www.learning.uclg.org/file/public-space-generator-growth-african-cities>
- [6] <https://twitter.com/hashtag/PublicSpace?src=hash>
- [7] <https://twitter.com/hashtag/UCLGCongress?src=hash>
- [8] <https://t.co/G2HdafKlJM>
- [9] <https://t.co/HjSjcGY6JD>
- [10] [https://twitter.com/uclg\\_cusp/status/765852327274307584](https://twitter.com/uclg_cusp/status/765852327274307584)
- [11] <https://twitter.com/hashtag/publicspace?src=hash>
- [12] <https://t.co/dRTDgbB6uZ>
- [13] [https://twitter.com/uclg\\_women/status/765856047525486592](https://twitter.com/uclg_women/status/765856047525486592)
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- [20] <https://twitter.com/hashtag/SupportRight2City?src=hash>
- [21] <https://t.co/6gRQ2iGGjz>
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- [37] <https://t.co/7bwfzsjrTm>
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[40] <https://twitter.com/hashtag/localgiv?src=hash>

[41] <https://t.co/Fu1ES9l144>

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[45] <https://twitter.com/UNHABITAT>

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