

Welcome

Welcome Message from the Mayor of Bogotá



I would like to welcome you to the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders, to be held this year in Bogotá from the 12th to the 15th of October. The summit will be an extraordinary opportunity for us to share our ideas and projects relating to the challenges in our cities, especially those undergoing rapid growth. How can we make our cities more socially inclusive? How can we improve mobility and security? How can we ensure **a happier life for all of our citizens?**

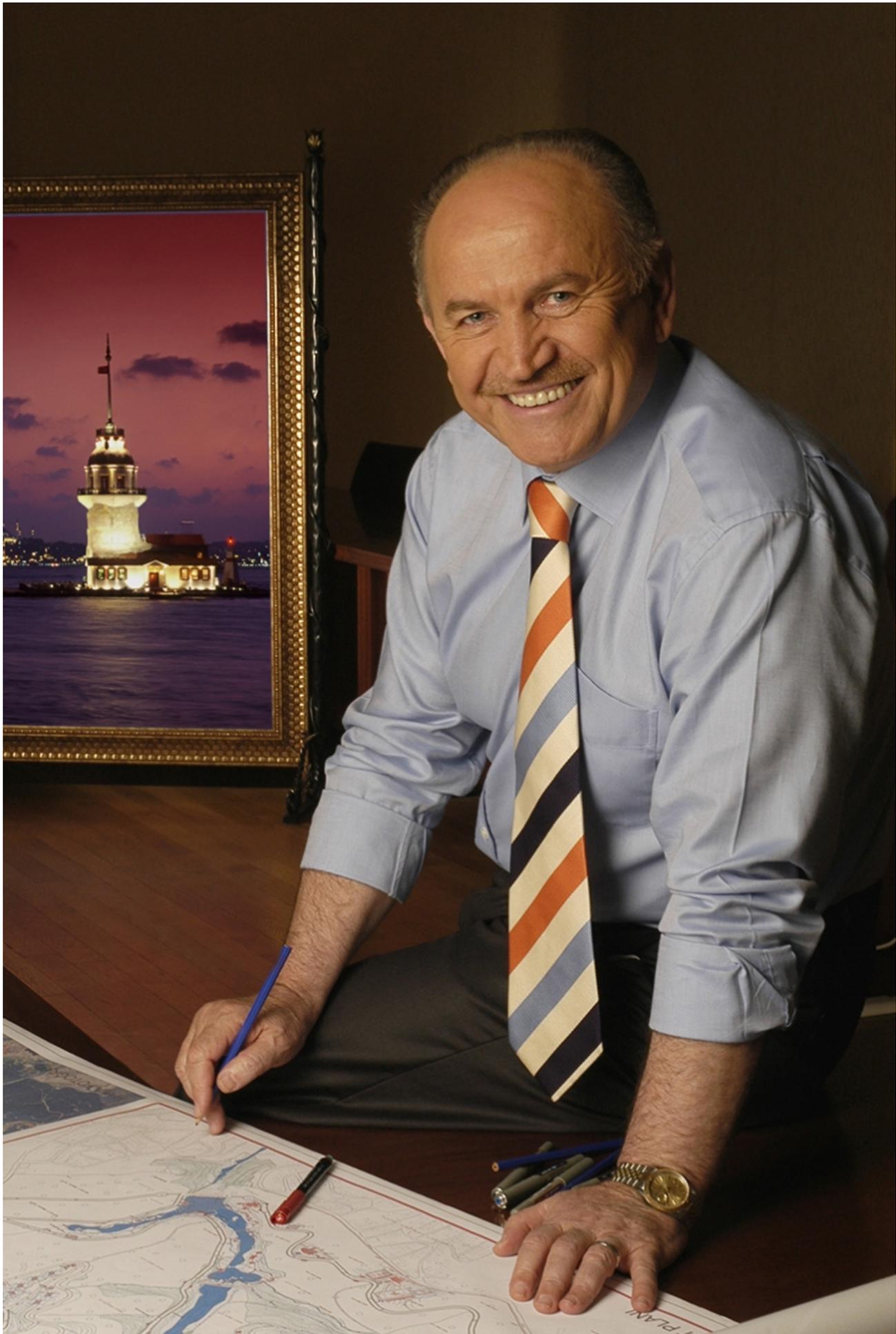
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Our capital, Bogotá, is ready to welcome you. We're at your service and hope to share some of our policies with you, such as the system of mass bus transport with the greatest capacity in the world, and our extensive network of bike lanes which means that for every three cars on our roads, there's one cyclist. And, of course, just as we have made achievements, we also face enormous challenges and hope to learn much from all of you, and that together we can find ever more effective solutions to the challenges we face.

We look forward to seeing you from the 12th to the 15th of October in Bogotá, and I hope that you enjoy a happy and productive stay in the city.

Enrique Peñalosa Londoño
Mayor of Bogotá, Colombia

Welcome Message from the UCLG President



The city of Bogotá, the capital of Colombia, is preparing to host the **World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders, the 5th Congress of our World Organization, from 12 to 15 October 2016.**

For the first time in our history, the World Congress will coincide with a United Nations Conference on Sustainable Urban Development – the **Habitat III** Conference – which will take place a few days after our Summit, from 17 to 20 October 2016, in Quito, Ecuador.

From Bogotá to Quito, the Summit will enable us to promote the **recommendations, practices and experiences** of local and regional authorities and ensure they are brought to fruition. It is in this way that we want to make the 5th Congress a leading **political moment** and a space for meeting and exchange among local and regional elected officials from all over the world, as well as among all of the communities that make up the global local and regional family.

It is also why we wanted this Summit to utilize **more innovative** formats of interaction that afford everyone a space to express and share their views.

We want to make the 5th Congress a leading political moment and a space for meeting and exchange among local and regional elected officials from all over the world. One year after the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit that defined the 2030 Agenda, and a few days before Habitat III, the Bogotá Summit must enable local and regional elected officials, practitioners, our institutional partners and civil society to develop **our own global agenda** and to advance their recommendations on the **localization of the Development Agenda** and the pillars of the **New Urban Agenda of Habitat III**. The *Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments* will be one of the key moments in paving the way from Bogotá to Quito.

Further, the 5th Congress will see the election of a new President and indeed **a new Presidency at the head of UCLG**. In the light of this crucial period of transition for local and regional governments worldwide, the renewal of the Presidential College will be a decisive moment of our Congress.

I look forward to welcoming you to this gathering of our Organization in Latin America in great numbers.

Dr. Kadir Topbaş

Mayor of Istanbul, Turkey

President of UCLG World Organization
