On the 12th of May, global networks of local governments, civil society, and the urban community launch the #Listen2Cities campaign to call on the international community to listen to cities and territories in the negotiations on the New Urban Agenda that will be adopted at Habitat III.

The campaign is being a success. Thanks all to the support, it is becoming a diverse campaign that has mobilized the Habitat III world beyond UCLG. It has really served to unite and amplify the voice of local and regional governments at the Second World Assembly and Local Authorities Hearings, held in New York.

- Check out the #Listen2cities campaign report
- Read the news: Local networks call on the UN and Member States to #Listen2Cities at Habitat III
- Share the following messages of mayors, local and regional leaders, representatives from international organizations, etc.

Kadir Topbaş
Mayor of Istanbul (Turkey),
President of Union of Municipalities of Turkey
and current President of UCLG

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 essential to demonstrate and implement the local dimension of the 2030 Development Agenda. At the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders in Bogota we will produce recommendations for Habitat III. We will reiterate that the local implementation of the 2030 Agenda is not only the application of a global or national agenda at the local level, but the establishment of adequate conditions at the local level to achieve the global goals, including the principle of local autonomy and competence and sufficient financial resources for local authorities.
Local and regional governments are on the front line when it comes to responding to any type of crisis, natural or man-made. As the sphere of government closest to the people, (...) we have both a legal and moral obligation to act. The Bogotá Summit will be a cross-cutting global meeting where the international community will be asked to include the local dimension and to support us to foster solidarity and peer-to-peer collaboration.
After the achievement of the COP21 Paris Agreement, it is our duty to collectively shape up an ambitious and solutions-oriented agenda for Habitat III. Mayors and local leaders will be, once again, in the front line to face this global challenge.
#Listen2Cities  #Habitat3  #UCLGcongress

Eugenie L. Birch  
Chair of the General Assembly of Partners (GAP)

The Global Task Force (GTF), facilitated by UCLG, is an important leader in the General Assembly of Partners (GAP). Through the intelligent activism and sage advice of its leadership, the GTF has successfully worked with the GAPs other 14 Partner Groups, the Habitat III Secretariat and the member states to call for a Habitat III that places a premium on stakeholder contributions to the drafting and implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Above all, the GTF has demonstrated the wisdom of relying on local and subnational authorities and working with other spheres of government to deliver inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements today and tomorrow.
The outcomes of Habitat III are crucial for all local and regional governments. The New Urban Agenda not only affects big cities, it should also address the challenges of medium-sized cities and the rural-urban relationship. We from small island states know well how important that balance is! I look forward to discussing these issues in Bogotá.
The Bogota Summit of Local & Regional Leaders is potentially the most important gathering of the urban community in preparation for Habitat III. It brings together leaders who can actually implement the major global commitments of 2015 - the urban SDGs, the Paris Climate agreement and fiscally enabling local governments initiated at Addis Ababa. How else can we provide jobs to 600 million young people; housing and basic services to 2 billion slum residents; universal health and education services to 5 billion urban dwellers by 2030; and risk and climate mitigation to the entire planet?
From fighting inequalities to combatting climate change, overcoming the defining challenges of our age will call for **local solutions to global problems**. Together, the OECD and UCLG are committed to ensuring that cities, regions and nations work hand in hand, taking action at the closest possible level to citizens, in order to achieve meaningful and long lasting outcomes.
Local governments have to help improve the lives of citizens and, in order to do this, we need clear competences and new governance mechanisms. I await you at Habitat III in Quito to present this and other messages emanating from our summit in Bogota.
Habitat III provides a valuable opportunity for national governments to take serious action to respond to the enormous challenge and opportunity of our urban reality. The necessary decisions are not complicated: we need new and improved relationships between different levels of government and an expansion of basic public services to serve all citizens; this will improve lives, generate jobs and promote investment, and economic development. We need a new deal for the urban poor the majority of whom are women and their children. This will unleash better prospects for all.
The New Urban Agenda can make a huge contribution to implementing Agenda 2030 by focusing on the constitutional and institutional frameworks that will empower all levels of government. Particular attention needs to be paid to the medium-sized and smaller, which is where the backlogs and needs are biggest. We will continue building on our longstanding partnership with UCLG towards Habitat III implementation.
The New Urban Agenda is a territorial agenda and regional authorities have an important role in ensuring cohesion and balance. The Bogota Summit will be an important setting to share the UCLG Regions Agenda on our way to the Quito stage. **This is a great opportunity to consolidate a space for the Regions.** We look forward to jointly addressing this challenge.