

5<sup>th</sup> UCLG Congress

**WORLD SUMMIT  
OF LOCAL  
AND REGIONAL  
LEADERS**

**#UCLGcongress**



**BOGOTA 2016**

12-15 October

**INFORMATION  
NOTE**

**Local  
Voices  
for a better  
world**



**The largest global  
gathering of  
local and regional  
leaders and  
our partners**

# INTRODUCTION

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The World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders, organized by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), is the largest, most influential, global gathering of mayors, councillors, local governments, and our partners.

The 2016 edition of this triennial Summit, “Local Voices for a Better World”, will be held on 12-15 October at the Corferias Convention Center, in Bogotá, Colombia, back-to-back with the Habitat III Conference.

The Summit will see the celebration of the **5<sup>th</sup> World Congress** of UCLG as well as plenaries, policy fora and networking activities open to the **over 3,000 locally elected leaders and practitioners** in attendance.



It will be an opportunity for local governments to discuss the major social, environmental, economic and cultural trends that are affecting our day-to-day work on the ground, as well as to define the **Key Recommendations of Local and Regional Governments to Habitat III**.

But the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders is not just about policy. It's also the ideal place to reinvigorate the international municipal movement and **strengthen the global network of local and regional leaders** by allowing us to meet face-to-face, share our experiences, and learn from one another.

# THE ERA OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

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The world and its territories are at a turning point. Urbanization, migration, climate change, increasing inequalities, new technologies and citizen demands for democracy are reshaping our societies and our planet. It is clear that a **structural change** in how we approach development is needed over the coming decades.

In this increasingly urban, interconnected world, local and regional governments are uniquely placed to lead such a structural change by putting people at the centre of development.

As the level of government **closest to the people**, local and regional leaders are able to bring together and listen to all sectors of their communities, including the most marginalized, and adapt and target development policies accordingly. As elected authorities, we also have a **democratic mandate** to take action, and can be held to account by our citizens.

Under the motto “Local Voices for a Better World”, the 2016 World Summit will explore the structural changes that are needed to approach development differently, including more inclusive forms of governance, innovative financing mechanisms and new patterns of production and consumption, in preparation for the Habitat III Conference in Quito.

**Local and regional governments are uniquely placed to lead such a structural change**

# THEMES

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The plenaries and policy dialogues at the Summit will be based on the cornerstones of the **Global Agenda of Local and Regional Governments for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**. These sessions will see mayors, governors, high-level representatives of national governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, academia, development agencies, finance institutions and the private sector come together to discuss the Agenda and present it to the world.

## PLENARIES ON THE POLICY AGENDA

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### **The era of strong local government: recalling the spirit of Habitat II**

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Strong local governments are crucial for the wellbeing of all. The UN Member States gathering at Habitat III will need to remember the spirit of Habitat II, which acknowledged local governments as “the closest partner” of UN Habitat and “essential” in the implementation of the Urban Agenda.

### **Linking up the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda**

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In order to ensure that no one is left behind, local and regional governments need to be directly involved in the monitoring, implementation and financing of both the 2030 Development Agenda and New Urban Agenda.

### **From Bogotá to Quito: a seat at the global table**

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The local and regional leaders gathered in Bogotá will present our key recommendations for Habitat III. We will propose concrete mechanisms for a global governance architecture to ensure that the implementation of the New Urban Agenda involves all local and regional governments.

# POLICY DIALOGUES: CORNERSTONES OF THE NEW URBAN AGENDA AS THE BASIS FOR GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

## **Stronger, more accountable local and regional governments**

Elected local and regional leaders are uniquely placed to promote collaborative, participatory and integrated governance. Strong and accountable local and regional governments need to be empowered in order to define and drive the inclusive and sustainable development of their cities and territories.

## **The Right to the City at the heart of the New Urban Agenda**

The Right to the City approach should guide all the dimensions of the New Urban Agenda. This approach aims to combat exclusion and emphasizes the essential role of local governments in guaranteeing equal access to, and the protection of, public goods. It also calls for deeper, broader participation of civil society in urban governance and for the recognition and promotion of diversity.

## **Culture as a dimension of urban transformation**

Promoting heritage, creativity, diversity, cultural participation and transmission of knowledge is instrumental to build people-centred societies. The function of culture as a pillar of sustainable development is increasingly recognized. The operational role played by cities and local governments within this context needs to be acknowledged in, and empowered by, the New Urban Agenda.

## **Territories to promote sustainable local economic and environmental policies**

Cities and regions are increasingly involved in initiatives relating to environmental footprints, energy production and consumption, and local economic development. The potential of city and regional governments to mobilize local actors and harness opportunities to foster economic development and environmental sustainability needs to be unlocked and recognized.

## **Drive bottom-up national development**

Local and regional governments are strategic partners in building strong national systems of cities and more balanced territorial development. National urban and territorial policies should address and integrate the specificities and needs of metropolitan areas, intermediary cities, regions, small municipalities and rural areas.

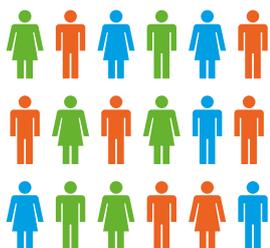
## **Building the spirit of solidarity**

The broad family of local governments has a proud historical tradition of decentralized cooperation and international solidarity among our members. Such cooperation allows communities from across the world to gaining shared understanding of the importance of peace, human dignity and respect for one another.

## Financing the New Urban Agenda

Local government investments increasingly contribute to economic growth at national and regional levels, but they do not receive an equitable share of the resources generated at the sub-national level in return. Local governments need local financing systems that rely on endogenous, stable and structural financial resources and receive investments to fund the local infrastructures and basic services needed in our urbanizing world.

There will also be three meeting places for the different local government communities that make up the broad UCLG family. This will allow each local government community to discuss the issues relevant to its own perspective, as well as its contribution to the network as a whole.



## COMMUNITY FORUMS

**Constituencies:** Metropolitan and peripheral cities; Intermediary cities; Locally elected women.

**Local government associations**  
**Regional governments**

## PERMANENT WORKING PLATFORMS: CO-CREATING THE CITY

In a rapidly changing world, cities and territories are where national and local debates on the future connect. Local governments are ideally placed to act as hubs for bottom-up dialogue between citizens and institutions.

In order to harness this capacity, the Summit will host two permanent working platforms. These will allow local officials, experts, academics, civil society representatives and partners to discuss some of today's most pressing policy issues before, during and after the Summit.

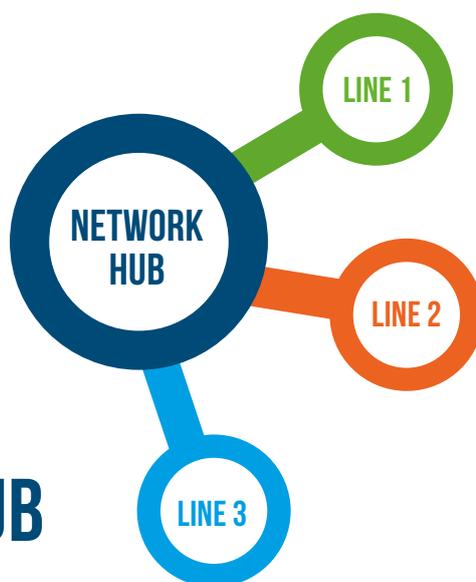
The platforms will begin the work in the run up to the Summit and their work will feed into the Congress Policy Dialogues and Summit outcomes.

### The working platforms:

**The Future of Cities.** This platform will aim to foresight the major changes that cities will face over the coming decades, as well as suggest how local governments will need to adapt to cope with them.

**The Right to the City.** Discussing the concrete implementation of the right to the city in our communities will be instrumental to the social transformation of our cities and territories.

# THE PROGRAMME: 3 "METRO LINES" AND THE NETWORK HUB



The Summit programme has been structured around 3 "metro lines". These 3 metro lines will meet symbolically, physically and digitally at the Network Hub.

The Network Hub will offer different spaces for both informal, face-to-face exchange and digital communication to connect and amplify the conversations taking place throughout the rest of the Congress, and to communicate them around the world. The Network Hub will include a press centre, spaces for interviews, photos, videos, social media, debates and workshops.

This approach aims to introduce innovative interaction formats, harness the opportunities for exchange enabled by digital technology, and involve members, partners, civil society and local stakeholders as co-creators of the Summit.

**LINE 1 represents the UCLG Congress.** The meetings of the statutory bodies of UCLG will have additional relevance this year, with the election of a new Presidency for the 2016-2019 period and the discussion of the organization's new Strategic Priorities.

**LINE 2 represents policy and international advocacy.** It will have a strong link with the definition and promotion of the Global Agenda of Local and Regional Governments for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and for our work beyond Habitat III.

**LINE 3 represents networking.** It will introduce innovative formats that give all participants the chance to actively participate in the Summit, as well as to explore the host city.

## LINE 1 [ FOR UCLG MEMBERS ONLY ]



## LINE 2 [ FOR ALL SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS ]



## LINE 3 [ FOR ACTIVE NETWORKERS ]



## THE KEY MOMENTS OF THE PROGRAM WILL BE THE FOLLOWING:

**Wednesday 12 October** **MORNING:** Official Opening Ceremony, Community Forum: Local government associations, UCLG Statutory Meetings, UCLG Section Caucus, Workshops  
**AFTERNOON:** Opening Plenary - The era of strong local government: recalling the spirit of Habitat II, Policy Dialogue: Stronger, more accountable local and regional Government, Community Forum: Intermediary cities, UCLG Section Caucus, Workshops

**Thursday 13 October** **MORNING:** Policy Dialogue: Culture as driver for urban transformation, Policy Dialogue: Drive bottom-up national development, Community Forum: Metropolitan and peripheral cities, Community Forum: Local government associations, Learning Forum, Workshops  
**AFTERNOON:** Plenary - Linking up the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda, UCLG Executive Bureau, Policy Dialogue: Territories to promote sustainable local economic and environmental policies, Learning Forum, Workshops

**Friday 14 October** **MORNING:** Policy Dialogue: The Right to the City at the heart of the New Urban Agenda, Policy Dialogue: Building the spirit of solidarity, Community Forum: Regional governments, Community Forum: Locally elected women, Learning Forum, Workshops  
**AFTERNOON:** Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments, UCLG General Assembly, Policy Dialogue: Financing the New Urban Agenda, Learning Forum, Workshops

**Saturday 15 October** **MORNING:** GOLD Launch, UCLG World Council, Closing Plenary - From Bogotá to Quito: a seat at the global table

# SECOND WORLD ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

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The 2016 World Summit will also see the celebration of the Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments.

The Second World Assembly is an initiative of the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments (GTF), facilitated by UCLG. It is the inheritor of the First World Assembly of Cities and Local Authorities, which took place in Istanbul just before Habitat II in 1996.

It has been officially recognized by the United Nations General Assembly in recognition of the role local authorities and communities play in sustainable urban development and in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

The Second World Assembly is the mechanism through which the local and regional government constituency will make its joint inputs to the Habitat III process.

2<sup>nd</sup>  
**WORLD  
ASSEMBLY**  
of local and regional  
governments

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# 2016 WORLD SUMMIT DELIVERABLES

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The 2016 World Summit will produce four major outputs:

## **The Global Agenda of Local and Regional Governments for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

The Global Agenda of Local and Regional Governments for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century will reflect the vision and legacy of local and regional authorities on the main challenges of the global development agendas (SDGs, Habitat III) and voice priorities that are not currently included in the global negotiations.

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## **The 4<sup>th</sup> Global Report on Local Democracy and Decentralization (GOLD IV)**

The Global Agenda will be accompanied by the 4th Global Report on Local Democracy and Decentralization (GOLD IV). This report will provide analysis, examples of local government innovation, and case studies from across the world to support the recommendations of the Global Agenda.

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## **The Bogota Statements**

The Bogota Statements, concise and politically-driven, will reflect the major challenges that local and regional governments have identified over the course of the Summit, as well as its major outcomes.

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## **The Key Recommendations of Local and Regional Governments to Habitat III**

The Key Recommendations, based on the outcomes of the Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments, are the main proposals that the constituency will take from Bogotá to the Habitat III Conference in Quito.

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# UCLG

United Cities  
and Local Governments

[www.bogota2016.uclg.org](http://www.bogota2016.uclg.org)

Africa



Asia-Pacific



Euro-Asia



Europe



Latin America



Middle East-  
West Asia



North America



Metropolitan Section



Forum of Regions

