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Once every three years, mayors, councilors and local government professionals come together for their most important global gathering: the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders, organized by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).

This year, the Summit will be held in Bogotá, Colombia from 12-15 October, back-to-back with the Habitat III Conference in Quito.

The theme of the 2016 Summit is “Local Voices for a Better World”. It will see the celebration of the 5th World Congress of UCLG as well as policy debates 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 recommendations of Local and Regional Governments for 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.
A guide for the media and bloggers interested in covering the Summit

10 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE WORLD SUMMIT OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEADERS

1. What is the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders?

The World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders is the largest, most influential conference for local and regional leaders from across the world and global gathering of mayors, councillors, local governments, and our partners. The Summit is held every three years and the 2016 edition “Local Voices for a Better World” will be held, back-to-back with the Habitat III Conference.

2. What is the UCLG World Congress?

The Summit will see the celebration of the 5th UCLG World Congress, which brings together members of UCLG to set the local and regional government agenda for the next three years and beyond.

3. What are the main aims of the Summit?

The Summit is an opportunity for local leaders from across the globe to come together to discuss the issues and priorities that matter to them, as well as to define the recommendations of local and regional governments for the New Urban Agenda to be adopted at Habitat III.

The Summit seeks to reinvigorate the international municipal movement and strengthen the global network of local and regional leaders by allowing us to meet, share our experiences, and learn from one another.

4. When and where will the Summit take place?

The World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders will take place from 12 to 15 October in Bogotá, Colombia in Corferias Confention Centre, Cra. 37 24-67, Bogotá, Colombia.

www.corferias.com

5. Who is invited to attend?

The event brings together over 3,000 locally elected leaders and professionals representing towns, cities, metropolises and regions, civil society, the business world and academia.
6. Why is the edition 2016 unique?

For the first time, the UCLG World Summit coincides with a United Nations Conference on Sustainable Urban Development: the Habitat III Conference to be held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October 2016.

Also, the 2016 edition includes an Urban Journalist Academy, a pioneering and innovative UN-Habitat initiative co-organized with UCLG to further the knowledge and understanding of international and national journalists and media professionals of the social, economic and environmental issues facing cities in the twenty-first century.

7. What issues will be discussed in the 2016 edition?

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 21st Century.

- Stronger, more accountable local and regional governments
- The Right to the City at the heart of the New Urban Agenda
- Culture as a driver for urban transformation
- Territories for sustainable local economic and environmental policies
- Drive bottom-up national development
- Building the spirit of solidarity
- Financing the New Urban Agenda

8. What are the Permanent working platforms on co-creating the city?

The Summit will host two permanent working platforms of local officials, experts, academics, civil society representatives and partners to discuss some of today’s most pressing policy issues.

The platforms will begin the work in the run-up to the Summit and continue during and after the event. Their work will feed into the Congress Policy Dialogues and Summit outcomes.

The working platforms:

- The Future of Cities: This platform will aim to foresee 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.

9. What is 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.

The first session of the Second World Assembly was held in New York in May. The meeting saw the launch of the #Listen2Cities social media campaign calling on states to listen to the recommendations of local and regional governments in the definition of the New Urban Agenda.

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10. What will be the concrete outcomes of the Summit?

The Global Agenda of Local and Regional Governments for the 21st Century: This agenda 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.

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.

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

The Key Recommendations of Local and Regional Governments to Habitat III: The Key Recommendations are the main proposals that our constituency will take from Bogota to the Habitat III Conference in Quito.

For more info, visit: www.bogota2016.uclg.org
HOW CAN I COVER THE SUMMIT?

The Network Hub:

Journalists attending the Congress can connect at the Network Hub. This space in the center of the Congress venue will offer digital communication facilities to connect and amplify the conversations taking place throughout the rest of the Congress and communicate them around the world.

Quotes

Quotes from speakers will be published in the ‘Quotes’ section of the Summit website after each session.

IISD Coverage:

The International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) will offer live coverage of the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders.

Social Media

Follow all the discussions via the hashtag: #UCLGCongress and #Listen2Cities

Press Accreditation:

Visit the website: www.bogota2016.uclg.org/en/registration-form
Contact: Sandra Vergara, Head of Press, Bogota City
Email: prensa.cglu@alcaldia.bogota.gov.co

FOLLOW LIVE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Participants in the Congress will share live updates using the hashtag #UCLGCongress. The UCLG team will be active on the following platforms:

Twitter ➤ @uclg_org

Facebook ➤ www.facebook.com/UnitedCitiesAndLocalGovernments/

Flickr ➤ www.flickr.com/photos/uclg

YouTube ➤ www.youtube.com/user/UCLG11

For more info, visit: www.bogota2016.uclg.org/media-resources