2nd World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders

Report of the 4th UCLG World Congress
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FOREWORD

UCLG offered attendees a unique opportunity to debate and exchange their views on the most vital issues for the agenda of sub-national authorities and their partners for the 21st century.
2013, the centenary year of the international municipal movement, saw the celebration of 2nd World Summit of UCLG from 1-4 October 2013 in Rabat, Morocco. The Moroccan capital “supports all initiatives that aim to promote the principles of decentralization and local democratic development” (extract from the speech by the King of Morocco, read at the Summit opening by Mr Fathallah Oualalou, Mayor of Rabat).

Over 3,000 participants from 125 countries from all regions of the world took part in the four day event. Representatives of local and regional authorities, national governments, multi-lateral agencies, the private sector, development partners and civil society came together to connect, debate and exchange experiences. The four days offered a unique opportunity for them to debate and exchange their views on the most vital issues for the agenda of sub-national authorities and their partners for the 21st century.
3 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE RABAT CONGRESS:

01. **The side events**: several partners expressed their desire to organise workshop sessions (around 30) on various topics including local economic development, governance, health, innovation in local management, resilience and risk, youth and children, mobility and accessibility in urban zones, the challenges of growth and urban strategic planning. These sessions brought together elected representatives, development professionals, experts and NGO representatives to present their contributions. Other partners took advantage of the event in Rabat to bring together their governing bodies and hold working meetings (e.g. ARLEM, PLATFORMA) given that many of their members are already members of UCLG or had decided to take part in the Rabat Congress.

02. **The UCLG Statutory Meetings**: These important events allow for the renewal of the internal democracy of UCLG, for the definition of its path and future direction and for the definition of the policies and strategies that the governing bodies such as the Executive Bureau will implement. During these four days, all the statutory bodies of UCLG (Executive Bureau, World Council, General Assembly, Committees and Working Groups, Financial Management Committee) came together to reaffirm the dynamic democracy and the vitality of UCLG as the representative and unified voice of local and regional governments on the world stage (see highlights of key decisions of Statutory meetings, Circular 33/2013).

03. **The debate during the four thematic round tables, twelve parallel sessions and two strategic plenaries**: Over a day and a half were dedicated to these meetings, during which participants discussed topics such as fostering wellbeing, solidarity among territories, new local governance and the promotion of diversity, laying the basis for a debate on the global development agenda and directly contributing to the Post-2015 process and towards Habitat III.
These three highlights undoubtedly fuelled the Rabat Declaration that was adopted during the closing ceremony of the Congress (document annexed). The declaration recognizes the need to address change, innovation and the issue of just societies by reinforcing bottom-up governance under the leadership of inclusive local and regional leaders. It highlights the role of subnational governments of drivers of, and actors in, development, and in the promotion of dialogue and peace.

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The success of the Rabat Congress was possible thanks to the contribution and involvement of each and every participant.

We would like to thank all the participants, in particular the speakers, facilitators, presenters and presidents of sessions for their dedicated work. Special thanks are extended to the rapporteurs who forwarded summaries from each session hereby allowed everyone to access the key messages and exchanges from all events that took place throughout the Congress. With the support of Rabat 2013, a short summary of the side
events that took place on 1st and 2nd October also feature in this publication (summaries of other side events have not been possible). UCLG was committed to facilitating the contact between those wishing to host a side event and the event organizers in order to strengthen relations and contribute to quality discussion and debate during the event.

**Following the Congress**, work on the construction of a new road agenda that will be presented to the international community for the Post-2015 process continues. The organization has demonstrated its support for a stand-alone sustainable urbanization goal. The Congress allowed us to determine the issues that will be addressed between now and Habitat III: urban and territorial governance, urban financing, urban planning and territorial management, cities as economic development centres, and cities and culture. Your contributions on these topics are welcome.

We hope that this report on the round tables, plenaries and parallel sessions in Rabat will be of interest.

Lastly, on behalf of the UCLG World Secretariat, we would like to extend our special thanks to Mr. Fathallah Oulalou, Mayor of Rabat, the management and the elected representatives of the city of Rabat, all the staff and the director of Rabat 2013, the Interior Minister and particularly the Governing Director of Cooperation and Studies as well as all the other managers for their support and their commitment to the success of the Congress in Rabat.

*The World Secretariat*
At the heart of the Congress

2016 World Congress, selection of Bogota as the host of the Summit, the renewal of the Governing Bodies, and the creation of a new Section dedicated to regional authorities, as well as the election of the Executive Bureau, General Assembly, World Council, as well as many Committees and Working Groups, met from 1 to 4 October in Rabat, on the occasion of the IV UCLG World Congress – Summit of Local and Regional Leaders. The Summit gathered around 3000 participants, including elected officials from over 155 countries, representatives of national governments, UN agencies, and development partners. The Summit also included the participation of representatives from most of the sister organizations of local and regional governments, as well as corporate partners.

Over 25 sessions with 130 speakers dealt with strategic topics for the future of the World Organization. The meetings saw the election of the UCLG Presidential Team under the leadership of Dr. Kadir Topbaş, Mayor of Istanbul, for the term 2013-2016 and the renewal of the Governing Bodies. The Summit also included the participation of elected officials, including elected officials, of national governments, UN agencies, and development partners, as well as many corporate partners.

The UCLG Statutory Bodies, including the Executive Bureau, General Assembly, and the World Council, as well as many committees and working groups, met on the occasion of the IV UCLG World Congress – Summit of Local and Regional Leaders.
The 2nd UCLG World Summit was opened on 2nd October in Rabat with over 3000 participants, composed of local and regional elected officials, ministers and representatives of governments, United Nations, development agencies, private sector and civil society.

During the opening Summit, the Mayor of Rabat, Fathallah Oualalou read a message from his Majesty the King of Morocco: “my country also supports all initiatives upholding the principles of decentralisation and local democracy, which are a legitimate demand shared by all nations.” The Mayor of Rabat, Fathallah Oualalou, also spoke of the honour of hosting this World Summit, reaffirming that “the African elected representatives must play a significant role on African continental development.” He also highlighted their importance as this UCLG meeting constitutes a perfect occasion to demonstrate the African experience and learn from other proven models. As elected representatives, we should play a key role in development and contribute to overcoming difficulties and challenges for African continent.

The President of United Cities and Local Governments and Mayor of Istanbul, Kadir Topbaş, affirmed that, “the new international agenda, which we consider our own, will need to recognize local and regional governments as specific spheres of governance and as essential actors in the development scene. (…) The world’s citizens are asking for action at global and local levels. I am deeply convinced that together we can make a difference building a future of dignity that we all want regardless of the place where we are born, regardless of our believes or gender.” Key international figures expressed their complete support for towns, cities and local authorities throughout the world during the opening ceremony.

Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-Habitat, highlighted the major stakes for the future of cities and “the importance of local governments in the Post-2015 agenda. The Rio+20 Declaration is a step forward to obtaining this recognition.” He also declared that local governments are “the origin of community participation and local democracy”.
The opening ceremony was followed by the official celebration of the centenary of the international municipal movement. This was an occasion to pay homage to the pioneers of the movement and the founding presidents of UCLG: Alan Lloyd, former President of IULA; and Mercedes Bresso, former President of the FMCU-UTO; and also Daby Diagne, Former President of UTO and Badredine Senoussi, Former Secretary General of the Union of African Towns. Special homage was also paid to the Co-presidents Muchadeyi Masunda, Mayor of Harare, Zimbabwe; Khalifa Sall; Mayor of Dakar, Senegal; President of UCLG Africa; Wolfgang Schuster, Regional Councillor of Stuttgart, Germany and President of CEMR; Ted Ellis, Mayor of Bluffton and Treasurer of UCLG and the Mayor of Paris and former President of UCLG, Bertrand Delanoë. This tribute recognized the role played by Mayors in promoting peace pointing to the example of the Ivory Coast and the numerous conflicts the country has faced. “Our towns and cities should meet the needs of citizens, and UCLG must set its ambitions on addressing all the questions raised by urban development” added Mr. Delanoë, UCLG Founding President of Honour.

“The new international agenda, which we consider our own, will need to recognize local and regional governments as specific spheres of governance and as essential actors in the development scene.”

KADIR TOPBAŞ
President of United Cities and Local Governments and Mayor of Istanbul

“The importance of local governments in the Post-2015 agenda. The Rio+20 Declaration is a step forward to obtaining this recognition.”

JOAN CLOS,
Executive Director of UN-Habitat
Roger Myerson, Nobel Laureate in Economics and Professor at the University of Chicago, introduced and participated in the Introductory Plenary session by arguing that through “broader understanding of the benefits of democratic local government, we can truly imagine a world in which people everywhere can trust their local and national leaders to provide the public goods and services that are essential for the welfare and prosperity of their communities.” Other speakers participating in the session included Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Development; Lakshmi Puri, Deputy Executive Director of UN-Women; Khalifa Sall, Mayor of Dakar, Senegal and President of UCLG Africa and Xavier Trias, Mayor of Barcelona, Spain. Among the many speakers who took part throughout this summit, the Vice Presidents of UCLG, the Mayor of Guangzhou, Lisbon and Kazan and Mayors of cities and Presidents of Regions working towards the global future of our world: Barcelona, Bamako, Bethlehem, Bordeaux, Bogota, Dakar, Casablanca, Cologne, Guangzhou, Lyon, Naplouse, Nantes,

Following the opening ceremony, work began on the first plenary session on the topic: “Imagine Society, Build Democracy: Tackling the major challenges of our era from our cities and regions.”
The conclusions of these debates and plenary sessions in Rabat are now crucial in defining the joint position that local and regional governments will adopt before their citizens and the international community. The second World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders was the occasion for participants to adopt a declaration and send a message to the international community outlining their recommendations for the city ready to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

Paris, Quito, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Santiago, Stuttgart, Tunis, and Vancouver, in addition to the high representatives of the United Nations and civil society organisations. During the three days of intense debates and discussions, numerous representatives from towns, cities, regions and local government associations addressed the essential issues faced by towns, cities, regions and their populations: how to foster wellbeing, managing diversity, new governance and the dynamics of change and solidarity among territories.
Mayor of Casablanca, Mohamed Sajid, described his city’s work on affordable housing for slum-dwellers which has improved 70% of informal settlements over the past ten years. They have tried to improve planning and provide basic services such as health and education to informal settlements. He agreed with the conclusions of the GOLD III report that planning and financing need to be improved at local level, particularly in the area of transport.

Miguel Lifschitz, National Senator, Former Mayor of Rosario argued that tackling inequality was fundamental to improving wellbeing, particularly in Latin America. We have four goals to improve services: 1) Enhance service quality for all social sectors using good mid and long term planning and investment. Use new ICT technologies and innovation in the aim of improving service quality – especially in transport and solid waste management and sanitation services 2) Ensure universal access to basic services – this has almost been accomplished. 3) Financing using cross-subsidies from more profitable services to less profitable ones – or within services – e.g. those travelling short distances pay proportionally more for transport, subsidising the poor who live in the outskirts and travel longer distances. 4) Use basic services for territorial integration and social cohesion, especially transport. He said that the GOLD III report will be a useful political tool in improving wellbeing.
Chair of Metro Vancouver, Greg Moore, underlined the role that citizen engagement can play in improving people’s wellbeing. He described Metro Vancouver’s work on solid waste management and recycling – partnered with Canadian Federation of Municipalities, NGOs and Private Sector on National Zero Waste Marketing Council to reduce packaging and waste from consumption. He called for GOLD III to be used as a tool for peer learning, and highlighted the report’s conclusion that decentralization must be accompanied by appropriate funding mechanisms.

SalvadorEsteve, President of the Province of Barcelona, described the role of second-level governments in improving wellbeing. The Province of Barcelona directly provides services and supports local governments in doing so. Municipalities in Spain are seeing reductions in revenues and transfers, owing to the crisis, which are making basic service provision more difficult. Citizens turn to local governments with their demands for basic services. We are trying to stimulate economic growth, create jobs and ensure the financial viability of local municipal services in the province.

Jockin Arputhnam, President of Slum-Dwellers International, made a passionate case for citizen participation in the improvement of basic services – representative democracy is not enough. He underlined the particular importance of including women. 50% of the Mumbai population live in slums and 60% have no access to basic services. He described his campaign for cities free of open defecation in which the municipal administration pays the capital costs for toilets and citizens build and manage them.
Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, contributed a risk perspective on basic services. She explained how economic growth generates new risks in service provision and infrastructure, and called for risk-sensitive urban planning. Making sure that hospitals and schools are resilient is the first step. She also highlighted the fact that, due to rapid urbanization, informal, unsafe settlements are no longer only inhabited by those living in extreme poverty. Inadequate housing is becoming a problem for more and more social groups. She described the GOLD III report as “an invaluable resource for all of us” for dealing with issues of planning, participation and decentralization.

Joaquim Oliveira Martins of the OECD argued that we should stop looking at economic development, equity and environmental sustainability as trade-offs. Rather, we should examine the relationship and connections between them. This perspective generates useful concepts such as ‘inclusive development’ and ‘green growth’. For such an integrated vision of wellbeing, national data is not very useful. We need to be able to measure at the right scale. He pointed out that even local administrative borders can be misleading, as ‘functional cities’ often cross them. The challenge is to build adequate governance frameworks. He pointed out that the OECD has only just launched its first guidelines for sub-national governance i.e. progress is being made on localizing wellbeing indicators, but from a low base.

Jenaro Garcia Martin, CEO of Gowex, argued that internet services should be understood as services that are crucial to wellbeing. He described broadband as ‘the water of the 21st century’.

LAUNCH OF GOLD III

Following the round table, Salvador Esteve presented the GOLD III report ‘Basic Services for All in an Urbanizing World’. The panellists were joined by GOLD Steering Committee member, Jean Marie Tétart, former Secretary General of the United Towns Organization (1989-1997) and Mayor of Houdan. Mr. Tétart praised the contribution of the report to international debates. He described the progress in basic service provision as highlighted in the report, and discussed current and future challenges, particularly the quest for sustainable financing.
In the framework of the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders, organized in Rabat from the 1st to the 4th of October 2013, a parallel session on the topic, “Financing and Governance of Public Basic Services” was organized by the UCLG Local Finance Committee, Suez Environnement and CGLU Africa, in partnership with the Institut de la Gestion Déléguée (IGD) and the Institut de la Recherche pour le Développement (IRD). The meeting brought together elected representatives and public service professionals.

UN Habitat’s guidelines on decentralization and access to basic services place local authorities at the heart of development and basic service provision. Access to these services constitutes an essential element in fostering wellbeing for citizens. However, in a context characterized by rapidly growing needs, legal, institutional and financial frameworks on decentralization do not always offer local governments the necessary means.

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Access to essential services relies, firstly, on the reinforcement of the financial situation of local authorities.

to carry out the responsibilities that are devolved to them. In most countries, the decentralization of resources does not take place to the extent required, given the high stakes and infrastructure needs.

Access to essential services relies, firstly, on the reinforcement of the financial situation of local authorities. The financing of essential services are based on the 3 Ts (Tariff, Tax and Transfers). Nevertheless, these factors are in place with limited elasticity and often prove insufficient in meeting the considerable financing needs of urban infrastructure. To overcome the gap between the resources mobilized and the financing needs, it is essential to reinforce the use of pre-financing, loans, and more widely, financial intermediation.

The development of these tools implies rethinking the interaction of local authorities with civil society actors, and the local, national and international actors. The question of governance is, therefore, central as we discuss increasing access to basic services. Reforms should therefore be carried out to include all levels of governance and all stakeholders, in order to meet the needs in the most adapted manner possible. It is therefore necessary to organize dialogue platforms in order draw up at national and local level, organization charters for basic services. In terms of governance, it is furthermore essential that the organizing authority be defined as best as possible in order to provide the service in a given territory. These services should be part of an urban strategic plan to anticipate changes within territories and to find a new base for financing infrastructure. Lastly, local governments must be entrusted with implementation by allowing them free choice and reversibility in the method of management. To carry out this role, local authorities should be given sufficient competencies and have access to diverse financing methods.

In addition, it would be fully legitimate for local authorities to recover part of the added land value generated by the development of service infrastructures. The income obtained by this mechanism would allow for a level of flexibility in financial decision making. Nevertheless, the financial instruments based on the
evaluation of land do not have a long term impact on regular income flows; they are essentially an investment financing method and cannot be used to cover implementation costs.

Analysis of the various forms of contracting (including Public Private Partnerships) show a variety of financing methods, governance and results. The ranges of solutions that already exist are varied and evolve quickly. In view of this, contracting takes various forms, including regular management and delegated management.

Furthermore, four major trends have been established in terms of contracting. We can observe the determination of operators, such as local authorities, to evolve towards co-management.

We can also observe a trend towards support for local authorities in terms of reinforcement of capacities and transfer of knowledge. This entails improving local capacities, thereby ensuring reversibility of management styles. These partnerships are also flexible in order to be able to adapt to exogenous phenomena. Lastly, private operators whose disengagement in terms of capital contribution has been observed, support financial engineering allowing new sources of financing to be secured and mobilized.
The Third Global Report on Decentralization and Local Democracy (GOLD III) on access to basic services and global urbanization process has been presented at the UCLG World Congress held in Rabat, which in its third edition discusses the importance of local governments in the provision of basic services to improve the quality of life of citizens. The Barcelona Provincial Council and the International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (OIDP) have coordinated the session, moderated by Xavier Forcadell (General Coordinator of the Barcelona Provincial Council).

All interventions emphasized the problem of the lack of participation and the need to establish mechanisms to promote it. In this sense, Carles Agustí, (Councillor of Barcelona, Spain, and representative of the International Observatory of Participatory Democracy), stressed that only when listening to citizens is it possible to identify their needs and propose appropriate policies. In the same vein, Jairo Jorge, (Mayor of Canoas, Brazil), said that if we understand the act of governing as “the turn ideas into action [...] then it is imperative to bring citizens closer to the administration, involving the public in the management of matters that concern us all.”

It was considered essential to evaluate and analyse in order to identify gaps, what has been achieved and the challenges that still need to be addressed. In this sense, Joan Carles Garcia (Mayor of Tordera, Spain, and representative of the Committee on Decentralization and Local Self UCLG), stressed that while the role of local governments is crucial in providing services, it should be established a collaborative framework.
among multiple actors from civil society and the private sector, in order to provide a space for participation.

Pierre Bauby (Professor of Political Science at the University Paris 8, France), pointed out the importance of this participatory approach: all actors, NGOs, private sector, etc. must converge in order to ensure universal access to basic services. Also Daniel Chisenga (Mayor of Lusaka, Zambia) highlighted the importance of taking a grassroots approach, “some communities are too large and offering services in these communities is a challenge [...] but we also know that everyone is going to the market and the bus station, so we need to encourage community participation when managing these services”. There is a challenge that still needs to be addressed, as noted by Zineb Adaoui (President of the Regional Court of Accounts, Morocco), who has indicated that we must work with NGOs and associations as collaborators, not as competitors.

Another issue highlighted was the lack of funding: transfers to local governments should be increased so they can carry out their tasks effectively. Bachir Kanoute (ENDA executive director and coordinator of OIDP Africa) stated that in some countries the transfer of resources to local governments is not enough (between 3 and 5% of public resources), a very low proportion if we consider the needs to be met, especially when compared to the average of the OECD countries, in which the ratio often is higher than 25% -30%.

Institutional reform is needed, according to Sue Bannister (Co-Author of the African Chapter of GOLD III, South Africa), and it is essential especially in the African case. In this regard, she highlighted the work done by UCLG to rethink regional associations, strengthening democratic processes as the base for better access to services.

Finally, summing up the points mentioned by Paul Smoke (NYU professor, United States), we must recognize that there is no single path or a model that guarantees success. However, even from different contexts knowledge can be transferred. As highlighted during the session, there is a significant need for innovation, since the emergence of new forms of management allows for new and improved solutions. It is necessary to stress the political dimension, since democratic instruments encourage discussion on the provision of basic services and help to arrange the priorities of our societies.
The challenges of cities around the world are pressing. With two-thirds of the world’s population living in cities by 2050, city leaders are pushed by their citizens to improve the quality of life for them with improved response to their concerns. People are becoming increasingly connected via social media, and massive amounts of new data are created every day. These changes are forcing leaders to rethink strategic plans, figure out ways to harness and drive insight and actions from the data to extract more value for their citizens, and continuously innovate to drive sustainability and relevance. Today, harsh realities are forcing city leaders to change. Innovative leaders will use that mandate not only to cut costs, but to lead into the future. They will leverage new tools, new technology, new media and methods of connecting – a constantly shifting paradigm that enables our ability to extract value from the massive amounts of data that are the backdrop of any city – to drive innovation, prioritize investments, build communities, and position for sustainability.

Leaders are innovating across services to meet the increasing needs and expectations of citizens, with the citizen at the centre. Given the global recession, the need to innovate is critical – streamline services delivery, optimize scarce resources, manage...
costs and deliver improved outcomes. Cities are a set of interconnected systems – be they local, state, provincial, national, or global. Looking closely at any city today, we find another city pulsating within it, composed of interconnected systems of many different functions and activities. Working across these interconnections, collaborating, sharing data and insights can yield the most desired and impactful outcomes.

Anne-Marie Jorritsma, Almere, Netherlands, indicated that with 20% of the Netherlands below sea level, protecting citizens from flooding and natural disasters is a priority. High quality basic infrastructure is the expectation. A smart society should be the focus – extend beyond the boundaries. The power of data analytics is enormous as navigation solutions for traffic congestion are developed to predict and analyse early warning systems for families at risk and even forward thinking ideas like pre-booking a parking space for people visiting the city. Cities should be smart followers and learn from the successful projects of other cities – share best practices and not create one-off solutions.

Laudemar Aguiar, Rio, Brazil, emphasized that large events like the 2016 Olympics brings about innovation for a city, citizens are more part of the process and care about where they live. Long-term strategies must be in place and technology and innovation must work together in an integrated way. An example is the Rio Operations Centre – all public services are monitored to improve response for the citizens, improving the quality of life. Social media is an explosive force and citizens are using it to communicate with their city leaders. 85% of the population in Brazil lives in urban areas and so solutions are critical to the success of cities.

H.E. Hassan Ali Joho, Mombasa, Kenya, recalled that Mombasa is a Port city with a population of 1.2 million. Budgets are tight but citizens have high expectations such as clean water, new bridges and infrastructure, and responses to public safety. The government must be results-driven and there needs to be a horizontal view of government. National government plays an important role in developing the policies of the country but they are too far away from the citizens to organize projects that matter to the citizens quickly. Local governments are key on the ground for citizens and in collaborations between the public and private sectors through which there has been substantial success. A committed and accountable government is required. With regards to the terrible incident in the mall in Kenya, the role of social media in the midst of the situation meant that what was happening could be shared in real-time and resulted in citizens giving to the victims – more than $1M was raised in a few hours.
REPORT OF THE 4TH UCLG WORLD CONGRESS

Introduction
Billy Cobbett, member of the Congress Panel of Experts, Manager at Cities Alliance

speakers

Zoubida Allaoua,
Director, Department Finance, Economics and Urban, World Bank

Belinda Calaguas,
Head of Advocacy and Campaigns, ActionAid International

Anнемarie Jorritsma,
Mayor of Almere, Netherlands, and President of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG), Co-President of CEMR, Co-President of the UCLG Committee on Cooperation Development and City Diplomacy

Aisa Kacyira Kirabo,
Deputy Executive Director of UN Habitat

Joana Ortega i Alemany,
Vice-President of the Government of Catalonia, Spain

Vladimir Platonov,
Chairman of Moscow City Duma, Russia

Scott Smith,
President of the US Conference of Mayors, USA

Louis-Jacques Vaillant,
Advisor, Department of Local Governments, Cities and Territories, French Development Agency (AFD)

Moderator
Thami Ghorfi
Urbanization (and structural transformation) implies regions that are no longer defined by political or administrative borders. Cities cannot address urban challenges alone: satisfactory development frameworks must involve new types of collaboration between local, metropolitan, regional and national authorities.

The session concluded that: local elected representatives should play a decisive role in inter-territorial cooperation; the international development agencies should be encouraged to commit directly with local and regional governments; national associations of local governments should play a crucial role in the representation of the shared voice of cities, regional and national governments; national urban policies should be addressed in the geographical development framework that recognizes and reinforces the links between the urban and the rural. Participants also concluded that the request for increased decentralization should be accompanied by a more active role for regional and national governments, ensuring that roles are allocated to the most effective levels of government.
The following summary is presented based on the panellists’ input and comments from the floor. Intermediary cities play an important role between metropolitan and rural areas. They have diverse characters e.g. being university towns, capital city, satellite city to metropolitan areas, rural support centres. Providing small interventions in intermediary cities can have a big impact. Key aspects important to planning and financing intermediary cities include sustainability, innovation, dialogue and co-operation.

On strategic planning, given the challenges beginning to emulate in metropolitan areas and the shortcomings in skills and capacity, strategic planning must be incorporated. Accurate information on population and other vital issues to ensure better decision making, and being able to raise revenue must be highlighted. Innovation is important because intermediary cities do not have access to large sums of funding like metropolitan areas. Community involvement in planning is important, including by providing opportunities for labour to participate, especially on economic issues and job creation. Strategic emphasis can be focussed on one or two topics like tourism, or agribusiness.

On financing, there is a need to be creative/innovate in sourcing different sources of funding and not be heavily reliant on national government for funding. Entering into partnerships to increase income collection and income generation is useful in intermediary cities as they often do not have the capacity or skill necessary for such activities.
levels to increase revenues. The Mayor of Chefchaouen highlighted the need to lobby donor agencies to fund key projects in intermediary cities. This is important because of the financial limitation of smaller cities and towns. Secondly, he emphasized the need for better management of planning and the importance given to “getting it right”.

The speaker from UNESCO presented a summary of a document on the global landscape for intermediary cities (iCities). The document puts iCities at the centre approach, which is deemed necessary, given that the majority of people throughout the world live in intermediary cities. He stressed the importance of the link between iCities and the rural areas and the support they provide the hinterland. In this context he raised the question of how to manage urban/rural interaction to increase food production and secure land for development. They are less competitive than metropolitan areas and hence need to focus their attention on attractiveness, governance, and strategic planning. As a consequence dialogue, innovation and sustainability are important considerations.

The delegate from Mozambique raised the important consideration that the majority of their funding comes from national government therefore new funding methods need to be explored. He also indicated that iCities in developing countries need better planning. Luciano Rezende talked of the city supporting iCities in Mozambique on a peer-to-peer basis in the spirit of south to south collaboration. Supporting the delegate from Mozambique, he stressed the importance of statistics and information as necessary tools for planning and for raising property taxes. The nature of the collaboration with Mozambican cities is on building up their databases and generating statistics on the city.

Mustafa Bozbey, Mayor of Nilufer, raised the importance of noting that globalization was bigger than any city or national government can address alone. He indicated that his city was the fastest growing city in Turkey. The city has many funding modes and 83% of revenue comes from their own sources, whilst the rest comes from the state. They encourage investment for job creation and work with funding agencies to develop new modes of funding. A member of the Spanish delegation highlighted the economic and social importance of iCities. They provide incentives (such as taxation) for businesses to stay in the city. For example, local tourism is growing in the city of Valladolid and they have decided to focus on gastronomy as their key tourism draw. They also have structure tax payment to taken the burden off citizens.

A summary of a document on the global landscape for intermediary cities (iCities) was presented.
Parallel Session
Food Security in Cities and Regions

The session addressed the rise and volatility of prices in basic foodstuffs, the dependence of certain countries on imports, the political, financial and economic crises, the competition for access to natural resources, the degradation of the environment, and the effects of climate change on food and nutritional security, both now and in the future, for all populations, city and rural dwellers, in particular the poorest.

The stakes for citizens and for the various public and private authorities, be they local, national or sub-continental, lay in the creation and implementation of food systems from a development stance. This development should be sustainable, inclusive, resilient and effective, and based on individual and collective responsibility. Responsibility should be endorsed and carried forward with the competencies of local and regional authorities.

Further to the need for a balanced rural/urban link in political territories, urbanization should be addressed positively and included in cross-sector strategic planning that promotes a strong link between the urban and the rural. The territorial food systems aim to meet these complex tasks. The issue concerns numerous sectors (e.g. alimentation, transport, health, education, water, housing, migration, land policy, agriculture and urban and semi-urban forestry).
Governments, regional authorities, civil society, the private sector, research bodies, and technical and financial partners should all join efforts to carry out concrete actions within the accepted strategies, working with a set of clear rights, obligations and responsibilities. The objective is to create a resilient city or territory that contributes to a green economy, offers a healthy environment, responds to local climate change issues, and participates in the prevention and the reduction of risks and optimizes their capacity to feed populations in a sustainable and healthy manner.

Urban and rural development must be rethought by reinforcing the partnerships and the sharing of information and best practices and by improving the training aimed at elected representatives and their services, authorities, technical training institutions, universities and research bodies.

Recommendations of the Session: That food and nutrition security be integrated in the UCLG Global Agenda as a cross-sector theme linked with social inclusion, local economic development, climate change and mobility; that UCLG encourages and develops structured initiatives promoted by members such as the Core Group “Food Security” of ORU-FOGAR, with view to creating a cross-sector Committee; that the Commission elaborates a publication on the Territorial Food System (S.A.T.), including rural and urban issues, that are intertwined with the Habitat III agenda; that the Commission and United Nations’ Agencies coordinate to develop this approach to the territorial food system.
This session was based on the results of the development and cooperation forum, organized in 2012, which highlighted the important role of decentralized cooperation and development. The dynamic session presented important aspects and experiences of decentralized cooperation with in-depth analysis of models of decentralized cooperation and of engaging local authorities in more advanced and structured dialogue, in information sharing and in exchanges on future cooperation methods.

The session, chaired by Antonio Vigilante, Director of the United Nations Office and the UNDP Representation Office, started with a presentation by Mr. Agustí Fernandez de Losada of a research paper developed to provide an overview of decentralized cooperation. The report addressed the key concepts and principles, the methods and instruments of intervention, information on cooperation experiences and the main challenges facing decentralized cooperation within the framework of new global partnerships for development. Moreover, the paper illustrates the arguments provided with references to best practice examples selected for their positive impact and replicability. The paper also proposes a set of recommendations.

Ten different experiences and practices were presented in the session by 10 speakers representing local authorities, governmental organizations, international agencies, research centres and local government associations.
The speakers highlighted that, during the last 20 years, we have noticed an active movement among local authorities of the world in the field of decentralized cooperation, among which there have been moments of celebrations of great success stories, as well as some shortcomings and risks that we have to tackle, deal with and take into consideration. The role adopted by International agencies in this field was also highlighted; examples such as UN agencies, the European Commission and others were discussed. This opens the door for local authorities to benefit from the experience and support of such organizations to make the cooperation more effective by setting clear benchmarks.

Among the challenges and weaknesses of decentralized cooperation, one issue raised was the project focus on the results that are at stake, which are supply driven. Transparency is often missing, there is a lack of financial resources, inadequate legal and consultant processes at local level, and practices of budget support and their conditions threaten local ownership. In addition, speakers stressed important issues such as assessing and prioritizing needs, equality among partnerships, the development of agreements on specific objectives and open agreement. Speakers also highlighted that citizens and citizens’ groups must play a major role in the implementation of cooperation and promote ownership, transparency, confidence and trust among partners. In some cases, development cooperation programmes are not mature enough; they lack financing and resources. They are often subject to change, when administrations change meaning they are not institutionalized.

Among the main conclusions: Support for decentralized cooperation is increasing as a result of the benefits of such relations, and local authorities are becoming increasingly recognized as major influential local actors in creating development and improvement. Agreements for Decentralized Cooperation are important, but they must be active, well established, and institutionalized with clear specific objectives - they are citizen oriented when society is involved. Cooperation must be based on transparency, a sense of ownership, confidence and trust, and based on learning and past experiences. Local authorities should have effective staff capable of implementing cooperation agreements and should build their capacities and develop capacity building programs. Good practices must be shared for mutual benefit as decentralized cooperation is best implemented if based on organization-to-organization and peer-to-peer relationships. A legal framework that protects the agreement in each of the partner local authorities must be agreed in order to continue the cooperation after administration changes, or once funding is stopped. Central government policies limit cooperation agreements. There is a need to facilitate integrated systems of local development in which decentralized cooperation is one important tool. The improvement of universities, civil society groups, and community based organizations, chambers of commerce and private sector in decentralized cooperation can make economic partnerships more effective.
During this period of economic and social transition, questions related to local governance, decentralization and democratization are at the centre of the agenda.

The Mediterranean Region has experienced and continues to experience change on a large scale, both social and political, as a result of citizen action. Rethinking the governance systems in this region will probably have an impact and inspire other regions of the world. With a view to analysing new governance and the dynamics of change that are being implemented in various regions of the world, particular attention is placed on local and regional governance in the Mediterranean and the lessons that can be learned for the future of local democracy and decentralization.

The round table identified new social movements and new forms of social mobilization, in particular through social networks, that have appeared in cities throughout the world, in particular in Mediterranean countries since 2011. The plenary highlighted the new methods of local governance and civil society that are being put in place following the Arab springs.

Members of the panel confirmed the central idea that decentralization is a necessary condition for good local governance: it should not be the ultimate objective but the
way to allow the city to have the necessary capacities to run public services effectively.

Members of the panel submitted various recommendations to UCLG.

Firstly, participants highlighted the need to take into account new local demands in North Africa as expressed by the social movements. These demands spread beyond North Africa to the Middle-East, Latin America and Asia. The Mayors of Porto Alegre and Tunis reaffirmed the need to develop consultation processes and instruments for local populations, in particular through the implementation of participatory budget processes and participative democracy.

The Mayor of Bethlehem reinforced the idea of gender equality, both as an end in itself, and as a means and instrument to promote local democracy and local governance that should be encouraged at all levels.

Lastly, the President of Plaine-Commune underlined the necessity to better coordinate civil society and local elected representatives through mechanisms that encourage the creation of communities like Nouakchott, Tunis or Porto Alegre to be closer to the expectations of citizens.
This parallel session addressed the following issues: the permanent dialogue between local and regional governments in all Mediterranean countries; the evolution of positions and responsibilities of local and regional authorities and the role of decentralized cooperation in the management that accompanies these evolutions and the reinforcing of capacities, in particular in Tunisia and Libya; the support of local authorities from countries bordering conflict zones: the role of local governments in countries bordering Syria in dialogue and the construction of peace; the role of local governments in the support of Palestinian local authorities, in the perspective of an accompaniment in the construction process of a Palestinian State in the promotion of dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian municipalities; the initiatives to maintain and reinforce dialogue between local authorities in the Middle East and the UCLG Peace Prize for initiatives constructing peace.

Mr Mohamed Boudra, President of the Taza-Al Hoceima-Taounate Region (Morocco), of the Political Council of the Mediterranean Committee and Chair of the session recalled the unique context in which this session was dedicated to the Mediterranean. Mr Bertrand Gallet, General Director of Cités Unies France and moderator spoke of the important civil society movements related to the influx of Syrian refugees in the
surrounding region and the shortcomings in the responses offered by multi-lateral organizations.

Concerning the question of democracies in transition and construction for the future, members of the panel concluded that local authorities are at the heart of the renewal and construction of democracy. However, the challenges are urgent for local authorities: restoring and maintaining social peace, creating employment and wealth, particularly for the youth, and providing basic services. The cooperation and exchanges among peers should play an important role in the consolidation of effective democratic local governance.

Regarding the question of conflict zones in the Mediterranean, speakers concluded that, faced with conflict, the diplomacy of states is inoperable while local and regional authorities can have more political weight. Local and regional authorities are actors in solidarity, in particular in the welcoming of refugees, reason for which funds should be urgently increased.

Overall, speakers concluded that peace was impossible without democracy and that democracy cannot be established without decentralization and quality basic services. What is democracy if not culture to assimilate, decentralization and respect for diversity. Given the importance of preventing crisis for the future, it is vital to implement new cooperation and dialogue initiatives to support local and regional authorities in restoring and maintaining social peace and introducing true democratic local governance. In terms of preventing conflict and managing post-crisis situations, local and regional authorities are key for both diplomacy and development, and for the cooperation they implement directly or through their role in the management of refugees. Their political role should be recognized and more substantial resources should be allocated.

What is democracy if not culture to assimilate, decentralization and respect for diversity.
The session began with introductory remarks by Josep Roig, Secretary General of UCLG. On behalf of the Global Task Force, he gave an introduction to the Post-2015 process.

This introduction was complemented by a presentation by Paula Ravanelli Losada, Special Advisor to the Under-Secretariat for Federative Affairs of the Presidency of Brazil. She presented Brazil’s initiative to monitor MDG achievements in a disaggregated manner, as well as incentives related to this approach. To support their municipalities in achieving the MDGs, the Brazilian central government developed indicators for the municipal level that are adapted to the skills and capacity of local governments. It is then up to the territorial entities to decide which of these fields they wish to focus on, which is linked to additional support from the national level. Although participation in the program is voluntary and development priorities are self-selected, they are binding in retrospect for the respective governments. Statistics on the achievement of objectives are available online on a user-friendly interface. In addition, prizes are awarded to the best performers as incentive for municipal governments to aim high.

Following this presentation, representatives of DeLoG member organizations, government and civil society representatives engaged in a panel discussion on the session topic. The panel was moderated by Alioune Badiane (Director of Projects, UN-HABITAT) and Jochen Mattern (Coordinator, DeLoG Secretariat).
The following is a short summary of the main points of discussion: with regard to the post-2015 agenda, participants agreed that indicators must be disaggregated so that territorial differences in achievements can be identified and supported from higher government levels and international actors can be targeted accordingly. Furthermore, it was considered important that the local level be able to identify development priorities themselves and that national support structures be developed to help them along the way. Despite these demands, the panel noted that choosing indicators will need to be done thoughtfully: Often tasks are shared between government levels, hence it is difficult to identify indicators that one single level is responsible for and that do not exceed the election term of local authorities. Only if this is the case can local governments truly be held accountable for their actions.

A second point discussed was the meaning of the term “developmental local governments”. Antonio Vigilante (UNDP) proposed a definition, stating the “truly developmental governments are those that try to fully fill the space their legal mandate offers”. This implies going beyond service delivery and including more complex tasks such as ensuring the respect for cultural diversity, inclusion of marginalized groups, creating jobs and attracting investments. The demands of citizens are becoming more political vis-à-vis local governments and the latter need to offer responses.

A last point that was discussed with respect to ensuring participation, accountability and transparency, was the need for publicly available information on local government plans, budgets and finances (for instance through web-based systems) so that citizens, civil society, the private sector and other government actors can hold local governments accountable.
Speakers highlighted that promoting diversity is a must as it is a reality faced by all cities and territories. Respect and promotion of diversity emerged as an asset and a powerful source of innovation for improving the living conditions of vulnerable groups. Respecting diversity is universal and deeply rooted in profound ethical values such as tolerance, social inclusion and non-discrimination.

Diversity is a multi-dimensional issue (political, economic, cultural, social, diversity of all kinds) that should gain visibility and importance within the UCLG agenda and the work towards Habitat III. Promoting diversity is not only about sector and actor focused policies (national and foreign migrants, street traders and informal workers, citizens with diverse religious or sexual identities, etc.) but also about spatial planning and policies. Land use planning and preservation of public spaces triggers the promotion of diversity and spatial inclusion can become a guiding principle.

Diversity concepts were discussed and the multidimensional concept was broken into concrete examples of demands and actions that occur in the city and their leadership.

City leaders integrate the diversity of community actors, such as ethnic groups, youth, women, diverse sexual orientation, and aging persons in policy design. Migration policies are also key. Not all decisions can be a space for cultural expression, as demonstrated by the Mayor of Singapore where limited land and space sometimes require decisions that affect heritage or vulnerable communities. Nevertheless, in making these decisions it is important to listen and to involve communities and their interests in order to achieve a broader understanding of city management. Diversity is a political challenge, and not to address it is dangerous.

Land use and public space, as well as service provision, can trigger or stagger the promotion of diversity. Spatial inclusion can become a guiding principle. For example in Mauritania, the diversity and tradition of activities unfolding in the few public parks shows how important it is to have an open space policy.
Local governments are dealing and giving responses to the formal and informal economy, and promoting decent job creation, particularly for the urban youth. Participation and institutional responses are basic in creating an atmosphere of trust. Clear communication of interests is important for negotiations and more so when dealing with high diversity of stakeholders.

Leadership, as expressed by Bilbao, requires “valentia”, or courage, to accept and overcome the fears of prejudices to create political and physical spaces for groups to meet. By providing examples, policies on culture and education need to aim for inclusion instead of tolerance.

Cities are key actors in making multi-level governance a reality and in involving NGOs and grassroots organizations. UCLG will continue to provide a platform for mayors and all development actors and should give clear and coherent recommendations to guide cities and local governments on their local policies for all the components of diversity: economic, social, and spatial environmental and cultural. Evidence through learning between cities should also be provided, and leaders can inspire each other to build on diversity.
The session focused on the role of ‘culture’ in sustainable development. The discussion focused on culture as a driver and as an enabler of sustainability. Culture is creativity, heritage, diversity and critical knowledge. The panel discussed culture as a dynamic concept. The panel affirmed that if sustainable development has to be more than empty words, then citizens should be empowered by policies. The panel affirmed that solid cultural policies provide the best tools to allow citizens to widen their freedoms. Evidence strongly suggests that well-being is directly correlated with participation and culture, and is not directly correlated with economic growth. The panel conceived cities as the key interface between local identity and globalization.

The key questions that were raised were UCLG’s vision on culture and sustainable development, illustrated with specific examples of Lille Métropole, Angers, Taipei, Brazzaville and Saint-Louis in Senegal; UNESCO’s vision on Culture in the Post-2015 Development Agenda; and explanation of the Hangzhou declaration; and civil society (Charles Vallerand and Christine Merkel) comments on successfully operationalising the role of culture in sustainable development at a local and global level.

President Cullen explained the key features of UCLG’s Committee on Culture: (a) intelligence and learning; exchanges on current and future cultural policies.

Organizer
UCLG Culture Committee

speakers

- Catherine Cullen, Deputy Mayor of Lille, Culture Delegation, President of the Culture Committee (UCLG), France
- Phinit Chanthalangsy, Social and Human Sciences Programme, UNESCO Rabat
- Chien Joanna Lei, Member of the International Affairs Advisory Council, Taipei
- Christine Merkel, Head of the Division for Culture, Memory of the World, German Commission for UNESCO
- Benjamin-Alphonse Loukakou, Adviser and Communication Director, Brazzaville, Republic of Congo
- Marianne Prodhomme, Deputy Mayor, Angers, France, Vice-President of the UCLG Committee on Culture
- Ngoné Thioune, Deputy Mayor for Culture, Saint-Louis, Senegal
- Charles Vallerand, Director General, International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity (FICDC)

Rapporteur:
Jordi Pascual, Coordinator, UCLG Committee on Culture
of cities so that good practices can circulate; (b) advocating for culture as key dimension/pillar of sustainability; (c) advocacy for the Post-2015 Development Agenda so that culture has a stand-alone Goal (#Culture2015Goal) with emphasis on local governments. She mentioned the Award on Agenda 21 for Culture that was launched that evening by the City of Mexico. Mr Phinit Chathalangsy from the UNESCO office in Rabat delivered a message from ADG Francesco Bandarin. The message noted the importance of Agenda 21 for Culture, approved by UCLG in 2004, and praised the leadership of cities in the implementation of the relationship between culture and sustainability. He affirmed that culture cannot be absent in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. He said that the Hangzhou congress (May 2013) finished with a bold declaration and it is our duty to act now, to advocate now and asked UCLG to continue being very active in this endeavour.

The Mayor of Brazzaville, represented by Benjamin-Alphonse Loukakou, Councillor and Director for Communication, explained that the relationship between culture and sustainability was crucial because citizens have the right and the duty to play with local identity and globalisation, and cities are the places in which public policies with this aim can be successful. He mentioned Brazzaville was involved in UCLG-Africa for an African Creative Cities programme. Ms Christine Merkel explained the long wave of culture in

The key questions that were raised were UCLG’s vision on culture and sustainable development, illustrated with specific examples.
development: she observed that culture has been at the centre of progress and good governance during the last three decades. She explained that Amartya Sen’s understanding of “development as freedom” can today be illustrated with many examples in the field of culture, all over the world. She argued that much more progress is still needed and therefore she encouraged UCLG and civil society to be bolder and to widen their circles of influence. Ms Marianne Prodhomme explained why Angers had chosen to develop the Agenda 21 for culture with the plural “Agenda 21 des cultures”: (a) because Angers’ policies are elaborated with civil society; the only way to guarantee ownership and sense, and (b) because Angers acknowledges culture is constitutively plural, diverse, human; not a top-down dogma. Ms Ngoné Thioune from Saint-Louis in Senegal explained the local cultural policy, based on a bottom-up approach and pushing for (a) explicit presence of culture in urban planning and fight against poverty, and (b) specific programmes for arts and heritage.

Ms Chien Joanna Lei from Taipei recalled that cultural vitality is as important for sustainability as the economy, equity and environment. She explained Taipei’s “public policy by design (PPD)”: a social movement based on the needs of people. Mr Charles Vallerand emphasised that (a) cities are the key place for discussion on the role of culture in sustainability and (b) policies have no meaning unless citizens are the actors in its elaboration and implementation. He also said that culture must be at the heart of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, with its own realistic, transformative and coherent goal.

Recommendations included: strengthen the UCLG Committee on Culture; more services to cities; exchanges on current and future cultural policies of cities so that good practices can circulate; a new Agenda 21 for culture to be approved in 2014; an open process to discuss and agree on contents and mechanisms of follow-up; promotion of Mexico international award for best practices in Culture and Sustainable Development; global advocacy for a more central role for culture in development; advocacy needs follow up and strengthening; UCLG should reinforce its leadership and involve more partners; a Goal on culture in the Post-2015 Development Agenda would be transformative and coherent; reaching this goal means boldness, this Goal is fully compatible with (and complements) the stand-alone Goal on Sustainable Cities that UCLG and the Global Taskforce are requesting.
The current global crisis represents an opportunity to rethink the role of the state and of local governments in a bid to respond to the crisis and promote Local Economic Development (LED). Promoting sustainable and participatory guidelines between government, civil society and private actors would be an effective way to make the development process more democratic. LED will be an important topic in the international agenda over the coming years: The Post-2015 Agenda and the revision of the MDGs and the World Conference Habitat III in 2016.

Local entities are experts in all sectors of urban and local development and are providers of basic services to local populations. In view of this, it is important to highlight the significant role (measurable and immeasurable) of local governments in economic development. UCLG, local governments, and their associations and networks have a concrete challenge to inform, mobilize and raise public awareness of the local economy by directly involving citizens; contributing to the adherence of values in an economy that serves people and territories and is based on solidarity and development aid between cities.

Migration is a human right and requires greater attention at the destination where the migrating population must be aided through employment and social inclusion.
“Local development” is composed of various elements: institutional development, strengthening the capacities of local governments helps the good governance of a territory, social development, the wellbeing of the community needs access to basic services such as water, housing, health, that ensure wellbeing and healthy human development, local economic development, and access to dignified employment. Without employment, there is no chance of wellbeing in a territory and no ties between a population and a territory. This element is therefore especially important.

Local economic development should be considered a responsibility for public policies and should be promoted and supported by governments and international institutions, but it is also the task of everyone. In view of this, it is important to promote the implementation of initiatives (plans, programmes, projects) that support local economic development. It is important that international, financial and non-financial organizations incorporate these measures in a clear manner.

Special attention should be given to address the migration phenomena, both in the territories where it originates by ensuring human rights are respected during transition, and by ensuring dignified social inclusion at the destination. Strong migration trends continue and require special attention in the territories where they originate. Migration is a human right and requires greater attention at the destination where the migrating population must be aided through employment and social inclusion.

The informal economy can be considered both a problem and an opportunity. While the informal economy weakens the capacity of public policies to promote insertion programmes for employment and redistributive fiscal development mechanisms, it is also true that it continues to be the principle creation of employment in many territories, albeit precarious employment. It is important to consider the need for policies to improve the conditions in this dynamic sector in the creation of employment within a crisis context as this context has particular consequences for women and the youth who require support in consolidating new employment.

The social economy and economy of solidarity are opportunities that should be recognized in local economic development policies as tools that promote sustainable development (social, economic and environmental). The social economy and economy of solidarity have diverse expressions in distinct parts of the world, these experiences should be shared and used to fuel learning.

It is important to include financing sources in local economic development, ranging from subsidies that encourage entrepreneurs, to access to soft loans. International, national and local financial organizations should
Concerning international cooperation in Local Economic Development, South-South and triangular cooperation is fundamental. These have become an alternative and complimentary mechanism to traditional North-South cooperation and are appropriate for addressing the specific needs of the global South as it is based on non-interference in internal affairs, equality between development partners, respect for independence, cultural diversity and identity: and local contents. The former supposes a need to begin development and apply more structured collaboration initiatives between southern cities, in particular in questions relating to local economic development. This makes it necessary to promote experiences and improve practices and to develop networks of key actors in the implementation of local economic development strategies.
In 2011, UCLG adopted the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City in order to encourage local governments to design public policies that contribute to creating what is known as the “right to the city”. This concept seeks to establish a new political and cultural model in order to institute the local territory as a space for the collective construction and enjoyment of the rights of citizenship, which should be guaranteed to all residents of the city.

The panel discussing “The right to the city: fighting against urban inequalities” considered the type of strategies and local policies that enable progress in the implementation of this right.

Ms Maite Fandos, Deputy Mayor of Barcelona (Spain), emphasized the importance of public participation in designing social policies (from the diagnostic phase to the implementation phase).

Mr Perreau, Deputy Mayor of Nanterre (France), said that the denial of the right to the city has a major impact on spatial segregation problems. This right should also be applied as a “right to inclusive metropolises”.

Ms Tijani, the Mayor of Raoued (Tunisia) said that in her regional context, the right to the city involved a thorough implementation of the processes of
Mr Manyoni, Mayor of Mangaung (South Africa), proposed four lines of action: incorporating informal settlements in the urban fabric, increasing these communities’ access to the benefits and opportunities of cities, supporting the construction of social housing and encouraging public participation.

Ms Campeão, the Deputy Mayor of São Paulo (Brazil) said that the right to the city also involves reinforcing the political participation of citizens, as well as improving access to quality public services and to urban mobility.

Mr Vallier emphasized gender equality as one of the main aspects of the right to the city, and in this regard he mentioned the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life as a key tool for progress.

Mr Allegretti, a researcher at the Centre for Social Studies in Coimbra (Portugal), stressed the importance of engaging in two lines of work: the production of programme documents like the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City and the exchange of best practices through platforms like UCLG’s Inclusive Cities Observatory.

Finally, Mr Saule Júnior, the Coordinator of the Polis Institute, in São Paulo (Brazil), concluded the discussion by adding that the existence of democratic, sustainable, fair and humane cities involves ensuring an equitable and sustainable use of cities’ resources, assets and opportunities by all their inhabitants.

Recommendations of the meeting

- UCLG SHOULD DEFEND the recognition of the right to the city within the New Urban Agenda to be defined at Habitat III, engaging in dialogue with the networks and organizations of civil society.

- The Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights is the channel through which a specific project on the right to the city to provide UCLG with political evidence and messages should be considered in depth.
The session was launched with an introductory speech by Aromar Revi. He presented the case for an Urban Sustainable Development Goal, underscoring the unprecedented scale of anticipated global urbanization over the coming decades. He urged the audience to stand up and be counted in the international debates, arguing that now is a turning point, for better or worse, for the future of the world’s cities for the next thirty years.

There was consensus that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were conceived in a very different global context from that which we live in today. However, while Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General, Amina Mohammed, acknowledged the importance of local government actors for the implementation of international development goals, she argued that the Post-2015 international development goals will still inevitably be agreed between national government actors. She argued that the greatest lesson from the MDGs was the importance of effective partnerships between all stakeholders, local, national and international.
The greatest challenge, according to Ms Mohammed, is to be ambitious while at the same setting goals and targets that are realistic and achievable. She called for capacity building and the improvement of institutions and governance at all levels.

There was broad agreement amongst the panellists that development responsibilities and commitments for local governments must be backed up by the resources necessary to fulfil them. Kadir Topbaş discussed the case of fast-growing cities in Turkey, and Adolf Mwesige called for more resource transfers from national to local governments.

Ségolène Royal called for climate change to be made a priority. She argued that the challenge of global warming should be seen as an opportunity to change ‘the rules of the game’, including our consumption patterns, housing, agriculture, etc. Ms Royal suggested that we could boost economies and protect the environment by consuming less, and ‘better’.
Strategic Plenary

Shaping the Urban Future - Habitat III

This strategic plenary was dedicated to the Habitat III process, the 3rd Conference of the United Nations on Infrastructure and Sustainable Urban Development that will take place in 2016. The 4th UCLG Congress in Rabat was a major step towards this large-scale urban meeting in 2016.

During Habitat II, local governments were recognized as key partners of UN-Habitat in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. Habitat II was also an important step in the recognition of the network of local authorities. During the General Assembly of Cities and Local Authorities, organized in the framework of Habitat II in 1996, local authorities committed to building a “united voice of local governments and their associations” that led to the creation of United Cities and Local Governments in May 2004. The partnership between local authorities and UN Habitat over the last 20 years was reinforced and extended.

Habitat III should be an opportunity to take a measurable step in the relations between the United Nations and local governments through the recognition of a special status including a more direct role and responsibilities vis-à-vis the decision making bodies of UN Habitat. Habitat III will also be a moment to consolidate the international movement of local and regional authorities as true political actors for the international community.

As we experience growing urbanization and the emerging phenomena of megapoles illustrated by Guangzhou, 60 million inhabitants, Johannesburg, 10 million inhabitants and Quito 2.4 million inhabitants, the mayors of these towns, the President of the French Association of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions and representatives from UN Habitat and UNICEF all came together in one panel, moderated by journalist Femi Oke, to sketch the first lines of the agenda for cities from 2016 onwards.

Some of questions essential for cities and territories that must be integrated into the Habitat III agenda, are detailed below:

The question of housing is central in cities regarding access to housing, given that cities attract, for the most part, people from other areas to find work, there is a growing need for decent housing. Parks
Strategic Plenaries

Tau, Mayor of Johannesburg and President of the Network of South-African Cities highlighted the importance of this topic in African cities that have experienced a sharp rise in urbanization over the last few years and informed participants of a report on informal housing by his network. He called for this report to be considered in the Habitat III process.

Alain Juppé, Mayor of Bordeaux and President of the French Association of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (AFCCRE) recalled that housing will be the 1st greenhouse gas producing factor in developed countries, hereby highlighting the need to build housing and public building that are resilient.

In line with the question of housing and more widely the development of public policy, combatting land speculation is at the core of sustainable development strategies in urban contexts.

On employment, participants addressed issues from the angle of creating employment, in particular for young people, relating them to making territories more attractive for companies – centres of job creation.

Concerning access to basic services the provision of drinking water, the treatment of domestic waste, access to care, food, the development of renewable energies like solar – in particular within poor neighbourhoods – should be the object of public investment.

Urban mobility was identified as a central issue for megapoles as they face congested

Habitat III will also be a moment to consolidate the international movement of local and regional authorities as true political actors for the international community.
Governance is also at the heart of urban policies. In view of this, the role of local governments, as the level of governance closest to citizens, should be at the centre of the future Habitat III Agenda.

Circular and central routes. Leaders must promote the diversification of means of transport by encouraging non-pollutant methods and intensifying public transport (in Quito, 75% of the population use public transport, 55% in the city of Guangzhou is served by public transport with an overall objective of 75%).

All these policies should be included in the global strategy on urban planning. Alain Juppé insisted on the fact that, “urbanisation should not be endured but organized, planned and mastered”.

The Mayor of Guangzhou, Chen Jianhua, insisted on the need to reinforce the social link in towns through culture as a contributing factor to the construction of city identity, bringing together people and making public policies successful: urban zones should be welcoming environments, centred on people and non on infrastructure.

Work must be conducted to foster wellbeing for citizens, in particular, the most vulnerable, women, retired persons, disadvantages persons and children. Jeffrey O’Malley, Director of the political and action division of UNICEF highlighted that the wellbeing of children in cities could be an indicator of the performance of cities. He called for an evaluation of the wellbeing and the living standards of citizens, not only at national level but an evaluation that measures inequalities city by city by obtaining data from each and possibly even neighbourhood by neighbourhood.

Governance is also at the heart of urban policies. In view of this, the role of local governments, as the level of governance closest to citizens, should be at the centre of the future Habitat III Agenda. Augusto Barrera, Mayor of Quito, Ecuador, highlighted the need to include populations in city policies, taking into account their aspirations and mobilise them for the future. For example, the treatment of waste is a process that begins in households: people are actors in this process.

In terms of global governance, Alioune Badiane, representative of UN Habitat, called for the need for the United Nations to work jointly with local authorities and civil society as they are the point of innovation and closest to the needs of populations in defining the Habitat III agenda. He also called for the creation of strong links between the various actors and at all levels while reiterating that his organization is open to the comments of local and regional elected representatives through shared and strong messages relative to the urban agenda.

By way of conclusion, Augusto Barrera made a general call for Habitat III to achieve the same social mobilization that took place around Rio+20 and to create a world movement that involves mayors, local governments and citizens. He recalled that all municipalities can get involved in the sustainable urban development debate through the Habitat III Conference in 2016.
This ceremony was the closing event of the four days of work, marked by debates and discussions between participants on various topics. According to participants, the congress in Rabat was an important moment to meet and reinforce the links between elected representatives and their partners and to build professional contacts.

This closing session of the congress was attended by Mohand Laenser, Moroccan Minister of the Interior; Pascal Canfin, French Minister of Foreign Affairs and Development; Akwasi Opong-Fosu, Ghanaian Minister of Decentralization and Rural Development; Kadir Topbaş, President of UCLG and Mayor of Istanbul; Jaqueline Moustache-Belle, Mayor of Victoria in the Seychelles; Augusto Barrera, Mayor of Quito in Ecuador; Chen Jinhua, Mayor of Guangzhou in China; Suzana Mohammad, Deputy Mayor of Bogota in Colombia; Fathallah Oualalou, Mayor of Rabat and Fatéma Mernissi, Writer and Sociologist.

Pascal Canfin, Delegate Minister for the French Foreign Ministry, responsible for Development, recalled the importance of territorial diplomacy and the action carried out by local and regional governments throughout the world, in particular in terms of decentralized cooperation and in development aid. He affirmed the support from France in the construction of sustainable cities and in the accompaniment of cities and regions in the combat against climate change, in particular through the Conference on Climate that will take place in Paris in 2015.

Mohand Laenser reiterated the interest in a dynamic decentralization and regionalisation process to support local development and municipal management. According to the Moroccan elected representatives, the Congress was an extraordinary opportunity to highlight their actions in terms of local management and benefit from the successful experiences found in other countries. According to the Moroccan Minister, UCLG has achieved recognition from several countries and governments in terms of values and ideals that it defends and should therefore be given, with the support of states, observer status at the General Assembly of the United Nations, a goal towards which the organization is working.

The UCLG President, Kadir Topbaş, in his closing speech, recalled the major challenges faced by humanity that local and regional must address. He mentioned the combat against poverty and hunger, and basic services, in particular water and sanitation provision. The President insisted on the shared values for everyone within UCLG, established over the last one hundred years, namely peace, dignity, solidarity, equality and essential rights to a better life for citizens. He recalled the need for urban planning in cities in order to ensure equality and justice. To close his speech, President Kadir Topbaş called upon the mobilization of all members to ensure that the organization plays a key role in the Post-2015 agenda and the Habitat III Conference.

Fatima Mernissi, Moroccan sociologist and writer, supported the construction of inclusive and sustainable cities and argued that there is work to be conducted by local and regional leaders to reinvent cities and by global governance. She also spoke of the need to include and evolve the informal sector that represents both a problem and an opportunity, to create employment and create a sustainable environment in cities.

Jacqueline Moustache-Belle, Mayor of Victoria, Seychelles, and Co-President of UCLG, reiterated her honour at being elected Co-President of UCLG, the first woman to hold this post. She also confirmed the need to reach the 20% quota of female elected members in the statutory bodies of UCLG. Ever aware of the expectations, she promised to play a pro-active role within UCLG to reinforce the role of women and further involve them in the leadership and local decision making.

Fathallah Oualalou, avowed that the future of humanity lays in the hands of cities and towns. They must be at the centre of action owing to their proximity to citizens. He recalled that during the Congress in Rabat, it had been Africa that had welcomed the world and that Africa is the continent of the 21st century. African cities are attracting the world’s attention because they are aware of the substantial urban, demographic and development growth. The Mayor of Rabat insisted that the values of peace, dialogue, openness, tolerance, sharing and democracy be followed.

Suzana Mohammad, Deputy Mayor of Bogota, expressed her happiness and that of the delegation from her city at being given the opportunity by President Topbas and members of the World Council to host the forthcoming UCLG congress in 2016. That year will be extremely important as we will already be in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals decided in 2015 by the United Nations and the international community. Suzana Mohammad also affirmed that the congress in Bogota will take place in the same year as Habitat III and will be both the congress that represents the values that we defend within UCLG as well as a congress of innovation.

The congress in Rabat concluded with the award of a prize to Akwasi Opong-Fosu, Minister of Decentralization and Rural Development of Ghana for his commitment in the unification process of the movement of local African governments at global level during his mandate as local elected representative of his country.
The side event highlighted the idea that planning requires and is based on the development of 4 systems: vertical (from the national territory to the neighbourhood), horizontal (between local authorities), inter-technical sector systems and temporal systems. Today, current methods of planning do not always call for the participation of actors. Through urban “strategic” planning, a long term policy has been developed: a territorial planning document divided into mid-term strategies accompanied by follow-up tools. The ownership of territorial actors is a necessary condition in territorial planning. This ownership is created with the support of the state and is based on mastering the territorial effort to coordinate the various territorial levels and sectors.
The meeting was able to address the draft report of the ECOTER Committee on “A Cohesion Strategy for the Mediterranean”, prepared by Ms. Joana Ortega i Alemany, Vice-President of the Government of Catalonia. Members of ARLEM supported the perspective of a cohesion strategy for the Mediterranean, agreeing that it is fundamental in reinforcing the territorial dimension of the Union for the Mediterranean. The meeting also included a dialogue with representatives of the European Commission on the support perspectives for the next neighbourhood territorial and economic development programme for local and regional governments in the Mediterranean region 2014-2020.

Committee on Economic, Social and Territorial Affairs

Organised by Local and Regional Euro-Mediterranean Assembly (ARLEM)

This side event concluded that communication, as instrument in territorial development, should be seen as the sharing of knowledge and a way to carry forward a social project. It is essential to move away from dialogue communication towards a more global communication that produces change. The communication conditions should be temporality and ideological for actors, but without substituting them, and transversal, equal and inclusive.

Contributions to the research and the capacity building creation of actors: communication as service tool for territorial development

Organised by CERSS-ISIC
Speakers highlighted the key role of territorial coaching for managing relationships. The elected representatives recalled the considerable growth of their roles and powers to support the sustainable human development of their territories in order to meet the fundamental needs of their citizens and allow them to create and implement territorial policies that are pertinent and ambitious. In view of this, territorial coaching is an excellent opportunity to mobilize support, synergies with civil society and reinforce local democracy.

Innovation and leadership in local management: the example of territorial coaching in Morocco

Organised by the Moroccan Ministry of Interior Affairs, the Direction Générale des Collectivités Locales/DFCAT and Cities and Local Governments Africa

Decentralized mechanisms of solidarity: a solution to support local authorities provide water and waste services

Organised by PNUD, Global Water Solidarity

The side event underlined the importance of reinforced citizen comprehension of risks through information campaigns and awareness raising in
order to better connect citizens to local and national governments. Access to information is essential to better prepare populations for risks. The panel established essential principles, such as: open access to all information, with the support of the private sector to implement open and full distribution, including the implementation of strategic plans; better communication between national, local and civil society; the need for better direction at central level on the implementation of programmes; better connection between local authorities and communities on the ground in terms of dialogues on risk and programmes on risk reduction.

The issues faced by territorial authorities in terms of coordination and interaction were discussed and the situations and/or trends were further clarified for the debate, i.e. the importance of strategic participatory planning, the drafting of multi-level frameworks (national-local-international). Participants in this side event agreed that the following points were considered with attention: good practices of governance and local development initiated by civil society and local authorities in order to better connect citizens to local and national governments. Access to information is essential to better prepare populations for risks. The panel established essential principles, such as: open access to all information, with the support of the private sector to implement open and full distribution, including the implementation of strategic plans; better communication between national, local and civil society; the need for better direction at central level on the implementation of programmes; better connection between local authorities and communities on the ground in terms of dialogues on risk and programmes on risk reduction.

The main conclusion and recommendations of the panel were, among others, the reinforcement of resources allocated to local development, better synchronisation of decentralization processes, adoption of a participatory approach in decision making processes and steps to ensuring the implementation of transparency and accountability principles.

Participants highlighted that changes on a small level can have significant impact on legislative processes in order to make them more inclusive and generate more positive urban development. Participants recognized that it is essential to undertake a capacity review of local governments, to allocate special funds to local legislative processes and to reinforce capacities and improve provide training to those who draft legislation.

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Key questions that impact on urban mobility at individual and collective level, but also in relation to institutions and governance, were proposed during the discussions among participants. Participants focussed work on the development of peri-urban zones that represent a major challenge in emerging cities, including the need to integrate inter-city networks to limit the discontinuity of transport network; in the study, the link between the mobility systems and urban planning can be taken into account in the typology of developed cities; the need to distinguish between acquiring property and using motorized modes of transport, acquiring a vehicle is a legitimate social aspiration whereas the use of these methods reveals other global alternatives.

Exchanges allowed for an evaluation of the strong interest shown by all actors in this process and for the nature of the stakes to be made more precise for each actor, for the implementation of a territorial strategy on energy based on local authorities. All participants insisted on a territorial approach, such as that developed by ADEREE, in collaboration with strategic partners (GIZ, ADEME, REPIC/ Suisse, Forum EEA and IDE-E).

The main ideas revealed during this side event can be summarized as: a teaching kit (in the form of a digital tool kit) made available for the public and for the various interested actors, on the wellbeing of children and young people; implementation of a partner framework with the Ministry of the Interior, UNICEF and other actors to mobilize the necessary funds in the promotion of these initiatives and accompaniment of communities to implement them; institutionalizing, while elaborating codes on territorial authorities, good practices developed in the framework of these initiatives (the local council of children and young people); implement the index of wellbeing within cities to evaluate the programmes undertaken by cities on the situation of children.
Contributions of the CoMun Programme to the World Summit

Organised by CoMun, GIZ, Germany

During the side event organised by CoMun and GIZ, participants highlighted that Southern cities are facing important social and technological changes in view of climate change. Globalization also impulses Southern cities to reorganise in order to implement transformation procedures. The various speakers discussed the importance of urbanization for democratic transformation. Representatives from local, regional and national administrations and experts in local governance and urban development jointly examined the options for cities and/or local administrations to promote democratic transformation procedures in their countries. Special focus was given to Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia where authorities at different levels currently cooperate with GIZ, mandated by the German Federal Government, to reinforce democratic local governance.

Specialist financial and development institutions for cities and territories: stakes, strategies, methods and prospects for collaboration

Organised by the Fonds Spécial d’Equipement et d’Intervention Intercommunale- Cameroun (FEICOM) and UCLG Africa

The session initiated exchanges on the creation of a platform of financial institutions of local authorities in Africa. Debates were focussed on the need to support local authorities financially by reinforcing actor capacities. The session reaffirmed the interest of the organisation in a General Assembly composed of a platform before the end of the year and the definition of an action plan for 2014. In view of this, it was agreed that a background paper and a draft statute need to be prepared to be put on the agenda of the Assembly.

Implementation of innovative programmes in the solid waste sector: challenges and opportunities for territorial authorities

Organised by the Fonds d’Equipement Communal, Morocco

The meeting presented the challenges encountered by local governments in the implementation of low carbon emission programmes, illustrated the opportunities for this type of project, in particular the environmental and financial opportunities, and discussed and communicated on the available means for local governments to achieve their projects, in particular through the support put in place by national and international bodies.

LEDNA Steering Committee

Organised by Local Economic Development Network of Africa (LEDNA)

The LEDNA mission is a pan-African programme that aims to support local governments and countries that seek to acquire knowledge, conduct human resources training, elaborate and implement programmes/projects on Local Economic Development (LED). Discussions among participants, members
of the steering committee and moderators were based on the practical difficulties encountered with regard to the institutional capacities of local authorities, the availability of private expertise on LED, and the manoeuvring margin offered by national institutional environments. After discussing the mobilization of finances for the programme, participants addressed the issue of the financial capacities of local authorities, which determine the implementation of local economic development strategies.

### SIDE EVENT 19

**Walking audit**

*Organised by* the UCLG Urban Strategic Planning Committee and the UCLG Committee on DigitalCities, City of Rabat

An audit was conducted by the UCLG Committee on Digital Cities and that of Strategic Urban Planning, the City of Rabat and the NGO Walk 21. The audit revealed that an alignment between public transport and walking in cities is strategic. This audit also highlighted that significant programmes exist to promote public transport in the city of Rabat with, for example, the investment in the tramway (172,000 journeys per day and a network that will cover over 400km in the coming decade). They Mayor of Durban congratulated the city for this effort, recalling that African cities should reduce dependence on cars and create real alternatives for commuters and reduce pollution. A “Walking Charter” was approved and signed by 8 delegations. It underlines the need to reinforce awareness raising efforts on the importance of walking in cities as a right and policy for all. The charter is available on the following website. [http://www.walk21.com/charter](http://www.walk21.com/charter)

### SIDE EVENT 20

**The right to the city: an international dialogue for the MENA region**

*Organised by* Habitat International Coalition (HIC), HIC-Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN)

In light of the objectives of the side event, “The right to the city: an international dialogue for the MENA region,” the panel enabled the exchange of experiences and views from various stakeholders and regions concerning progress and challenges in the realization of the right to the city. Since the notion of
local government is new for the MENA region, much more coordination of local stakeholders in MENA is needed to discuss possibility and opportunity to develop local and/or regional charters on the right to the city. However, the constitutional reform processes across the region provide a likely opportunity to extend concepts of the democratic state beyond the current fixation with central government and its institutions.

Certain proposals from the panel will help stimulate the debate about a progressive urban agenda leading up to Habitat III (2016). These include the requisite constitutional and legal framework to enable autonomous local government within the enabling state; the question of scale and scaling-up good practices, from local efforts to citywide programs; the resource needs of institutions, systems and personnel competent to meet city dwellers’ democratic expectations; the need for sufficient civic education for public servants, officials and the general public in human rights-based governance.

The question of resources remains crucial to the success of local government that respects, protects and fulfills human rights. Political culture must evolve to ensure full citizenship is practised locally, whereas civic, cultural, economic, political and social human rights are a local task and, therefore, an obligation of statecraft. Greater public investment in municipal governance and participatory budgeting are means to build citizenship rights and responsibilities at local scale.
REPORT OF THE 4TH UCLG WORLD CONGRESS

Under the High Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI

4th UCLG congress
World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders
Rabat, 1-4 October 2013

Imagine Society, Unity, Democracy
We, mayors and representatives of towns, cities, local and regional governments the world over, from small, medium-sized and large towns and cities, from metropolitan areas and regions, at the service of rural and urban communities, come together from the 1st to the 4th October 2013 in Rabat, the Kingdom of Morocco, on the occasion of the 4th World Congress of United Cities and Local Governments:

**CELEBRATING** the centennial of the creation of the Union Internationale des Villes, its contribution to local democracy and the strengthening of local authorities on the global scene, in particular through its decisive role along with the United Towns Organisation and Metropolis in the foundation of UCLG in 2004;

**CONFIRMING** that the founding values of peace, dialogue, and understanding among peoples and cooperation between local authorities are as relevant today as ever;

**ACKNOWLEDGING** that diversity in all its dimensions is an asset for society and a source of innovation;

**CONCERNED** by the crises, armed conflict and natural hazards affecting numerous regions throughout the world and by the pressures on the planet and population resulting from the effects of climate change, food insecurity, lack of housing, poverty, cultural oppression and
social exclusion that compromises our ability to imagine the future and build democracy;

**WITNESSING** the manner in which the global crisis continues to impact on our societies in an unequal manner and in which, although not at the origin of this crisis, local authorities in many regions, in particular in Europe, are directly facing the consequences of austerity that have a direct effect on the access of the poorest to basic services, employment and housing, leading them into a spiral of exclusion and poverty;

**RECOGNISING** the need to unite efforts with all networks of local authorities and other partners, in particular with the United Nations and civil society organisations, to promote peace in the world and to define an international agenda that will help overcome the current situation in which half of humanity cannot benefit from the adequate living conditions;

**CONSIDERING** that Municipal International Cooperation and Decentralized Cooperation, partnership, twinning, international local government diplomacy, sister city links, and mutual assistance through capacity-building programmes and international municipal solidarity initiatives are a vital contribution to the construction of a peaceful and sustainable developed world;

**AFFIRMING** the unquestionable political role of local authorities, as effective promoters of peace and dialogue among peoples and shared wellbeing,

**ASSESSING** with satisfaction that the democratic revolutions highlighted during the Declaration of the Jeju Congress in 2007 continue to extend in all regions of the world, mindful that the local sphere is where these democracies are built and reinforced, and aware that forms of citizen participation are multiplying and becoming more diverse, in particular in decision making;

**CONSCIOUS** that the world has witnessed major changes since the last Congress in Mexico City in 2010, these changes raise concerns in some regions of the world with the apparition of political, social, economic and humanitarian crises. They also bring hope and raise the awareness of the population about their rights to democracy and justice;

**TAKING NOTE** of the quest led by young people in all regions in pursuit of their rightful place in democratic societies;

**CONVINCED** that democracy is built at local level and that current centralised models must be transformed. The local level, as the level of government closest to the people, is that which can best renew the social contract between citizens and public authorities as they are best placed to identify and understand the needs of communities. States are far removed from the daily needs of citizens and increasingly constrained by the constantly changing and unstable global economic and financial environment;

**ENCOURAGED** by the experience of the MDGs in which it was proven that important progress is made where local and regional authorities are involved in the implementation. It has been broadly demonstrated that results are not as satisfactory in cases where the principle of subsidiarity is not applied;

**CONVINCED**, as shown in the Third Global Report on Decentralisation and Local Democracy, GOLD III, that investing in basic services should be a priority as it reduces inequalities and contributes to development.

*Call for a world at peace*

*Call for inclusive, participatory, cohesive, Democratic and just societies*
COMMITTED to playing our role in overcoming the current crisis, to innovating and revitalising the economy and creating employment in order to meet the increasing demands of essential services for all;

RECOGNISING this doubly historic moment for UCLG and its members, namely: the assessment of progress of the Millennium Development Goals, and the rapidly approaching Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development “Habitat III” that will take place in 2016 marking a new phase in development and cooperation in which towns, cities and regions must play a decisive role;

HIGHLIGHTING the commitments made during the previous World Congresses, through which towns, cities and regions have affirmed themselves as essential and instrumental actors in reaching the Millennium Development Goals, and welcoming the increasing recognition of our World Organisation before the United Nations, demonstrated by the participation of the President of UCLG in the High-Level Panel on Post 2015;

CONCERNED that despite substantial advances, certain Millennium Development Goals (MDG) will not be achieved, such as sanitation, and in certain regions, like Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, these goals are accumulating worrying delays as we see social and spatial inequalities deepen and become more urbanized around the world;

CERTAIN that the participation of women in local decision making greatly strengthens the democratic bases of our societies and will be instrumental to reducing inequalities and achieving more just and sustainable societies. Women should be empowered and provided with the legal and financial knowledge and means to fully participate in society;

CONSCIOUS that over the next 20-30 years, demographic growth will largely take place in cities, where one-and-a-half-billion new citizens will need to be accommodated, particularly in low-income peripheries, and medium-sized cities which are on the front line of urbanization challenges,

NOTING the important progress made through the recognition of the role of local authorities in international policies such as the results of the Conference of the Parties on climate change in Cancun, the Rio +20 Declaration, the work on the High Level Panel for the Secretary General of United Nations, or the Communiqué of the European Commission on local authorities that requests, “the allocation of increased self-governance to local authorities in partner countries”. Despite this undeniable progress, the reform of the international institutions, which should provide local and regional authorities the place that will allow them to contribute to the agenda, is not sufficiently advanced,

**Call for a true global partnership**

Call for a life of dignity for all
THROUGH THIS DECLARATION,

We, local and regional authorities, our associations and networks commit to:

Continue our mobilization by maintaining the values that unite us

In the international context of crises and conflict and at a time of democratic development, we wish to place peace and development at the centre of our action, to thereby contribute to renewing democracy from the local level up and to engage directly with the youth to involve them in the development of their towns, cities and territories.

Take determined steps toward the formulation of the agenda of towns, cities and regions of the XXI century

In December 2012, during the VI Africities Summit, held in Dakar, and in the framework of the UCLG World Council, cities and regions recognized the need to create the Agenda of Towns, Cities and Regions of the XXI century in order to reflect the shared values that unite UCLG members and partners in the lead up to Habitat III. They also recognized the need to develop the international strategy of local and regional authorities in the implementation of the Development Agenda and ensure the promotion of concrete local solutions that are adapted to the challenges of our era.
Final Declaration

We call for one single global Agenda for Sustainable Development post 2015, bringing together the objectives of eliminating extreme poverty and contributing to prosperity and sustainable development;

We consider the reduction of inequalities, the improvement of cohesion and cooperation between territories and the promotion of governance and local democracy are key elements of this agenda. The right to the city, inclusion, equality, access to essential services, decent work, adequate housing, culture, and a balanced environment are essential elements in the sustainable future for all;

The new agenda should furthermore include specific goals for Sustainable Urban Development.

We assert that in order to increase the possibility of success, the Post 2015 Development Agenda should further advance in the “localisation” of its goals, targets and indicators, and provide the necessary means to ensure their implementation;

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The new agenda should furthermore include specific goals for Sustainable Urban Development. We assert that in order to increase the possibility of success, the Post 2015 Development Agenda should further advance in the “localisation” of its goals, targets and indicators, and provide the necessary means to ensure their implementation;

We, local and regional authorities the world over, undersign this declaration with renewed ambitions for the work that our movement must promote for the next 100 years and starting now in the streets of our villages, cities and towns.

Rabat, 4 October 2013