



UCLG

United Cities
and Local Governments

#UCLGmeets

WORLD COUNCIL EXECUTIVE BUREAU

5-8 NOVEMBER 2018, MADRID

World Council

Matadero, Madrid
Nave 16
Tuesday 6 November 2018
15:00-19:00



**CAPITAL
DE PAZ**

MADRID



www.uclg.org



Item 1
✓ For adoption

AGENDA

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Adoption of the report of the World Council in Hangzhou
3. Report of the Presidency for 2018
4. 2019 Work Plan
5. Amplifying the voice of local governments at the global table
6. Documenting local action for the SDGs: the UCLG GOLD Report
7. Consolidating a learning network fostering the achievement of the SDGs
8. Report of the Financial Management Committee
 - 8.1 Approval of the accounts and financial discharge for 2017
 - 8.2 Approval of the draft budget for 2019
 - 8.3 Audit report of annual accounts submitted by an independent auditor (sent in a separate document)
9. UCLG World Congress 2019
10. Updates on Committee's work plans
11. Report of the Committee on Statutory Affairs
12. Appointment of the new UCLG Co-President

Item 2
✓ For adoption

REPORT OF THE WORLD COUNCIL IN HANGZHOU

Summary and recommendations

The City of Hangzhou, at the invitation of Mayor Xu Liyi, and the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) hosted the World Council meetings on 6-9 December 2017, in conjunction with the Forum on Smart City and Big Data.

The World Council met on Saturday 9 December. Key items on the agenda included the annual report for 2017 and the report of the Presidency; the renewal of UCLG's partnership with the European Union; priorities for the 2016-2019 mandate, with a focus on the Policy Councils; the work plans and reports of the consultation mechanisms and the UCLG World Congress.

This document provides a report on the main issues addressed and decisions taken during the meeting as well as an overview of the key discussions.

The World Council is invited to:

1. **Adopt** the detailed report of the meeting.

OPENING

1. UCLG Co-President and Mayor of Strasbourg **Roland Ries** opened the Business Session of the World Council by welcoming participants to the first meeting of the World Council since the election of the new Presidency team in Bogotá. He thanked the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Hangzhou for the warm hospitality shown by the city, and further thanked the host section, UCLG ASPAC, for the efforts within the World Organization, noting that 2017 has been a year of great activity for UCLG.
2. He then gave the floor to the Vice-Mayor of Hangzhou, **Ms Chen Hongying**, who welcomed participants and expressed her honour to be present. She recalled that Hangzhou has been a member of UCLG since 1998, highlighting in particular the active work with UCLG ASPAC and CPAFFC on the Belt and Road Committee. The Committee aims to integrate the belt and road initiative worldwide, creating a platform for everyone to share their experiences and good practices on rural development, the cyber economy and culture, among many other themes. She welcomed members to join the Committee and concluded by wishing the Council great success.

ITEM 1: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3. Before adopting the agenda, **Mr Ries** took a moment to express solidarity with the fellow members of the World Council who find themselves in delicate situations, in

particular the President of UCLG Africa and Mayor of Dakar, Mr Khalifa Sall, and the Mayor of Diyarbakir, Ms Gultan Kisanak.

4. A **Motion on Jerusalem** was presented by **Ismail Erdem**, Mayor of Sancaktepe. In the context of crisis in the Middle East, the World Organization reaffirmed its attachment to the status of Jerusalem, defined according to international law. It was proposed that no decision should be taken unilaterally on this topic, and members called for a global, peaceful solution to be found. See motion in annex 1.
5. The representative of Rabat, **Abderrahmane Bouloud**, shared his full support for the motion.
6. Members of the World Council shared their solidarity and applauded the motion.
7. In view of time constraints, **Mayor Ries** proposed to address items 7, 9 and 10 – the reports of the Financial Management Committee and Committee on Statutory Affairs and the UCLG World Congress 2019 respectively – after the report of the President (item 3). No additional items were requested.

Decisions:

- **Members of the World Council adopted the motion on Jerusalem.**
- **The agenda was adopted as per the modifications presented above.**

ITEM 2: REPORT OF THE WORLD COUNCIL IN BOGOTÁ

8. **Co-President Ries** recalled the great success of the meetings held within the framework of our last World Congress in Bogotá in October 2016, which welcomed over 3,000 participants with a programme including over 120 sessions.
9. He recalled members that a detailed report is available online and that, in the framework of the Congress, the World Organization adopted the Bogotá Commitment and Action Agenda, which outlines the political guidance for our mandate.
10. He also took the opportunity to thank, once again, the Mayor of Bogotá, Enrique Peñalosa, and his team for his warm hospitality and for the opportunity to gain visibility before Habitat III.
11. He informed members that document included in the set provides a detailed account of the main discussions and decisions adopted during the World Council in Bogotá, and invited members to adopt the detailed report of the meeting of the World Council in Bogotá.

Decision:

- **Members adopted the detailed report of the meeting of the World Council in Bogotá.**

ITEM 3: REPORT 2017: ACHIEVEMENTS AND CHALLENGES OF A GLOBAL NETWORK

12. The UCLG President, **Parks Tau**, was given the floor to present the report of the Presidency for 2017.

ITEM 3.1: REPORT OF THE PRESIDENCY FOR 2017

13. In his report to the World Council, the President of UCLG recalled that 2017 was the first year of the mandate of the leadership appointed in Bogotá, and that the Bogotá Commitment had been the red thread of the joint action throughout the year.

14. The work of the Presidency has been balanced between the internal focus to strengthen participation and the involvement of all parts of the network, sections and member-led initiatives, on the one hand, and international work, continuing to consolidate relations with other networks and being the face and voice of local government in numerous global forums, on the other hand. The World Secretariat has facilitated the consultation process and the finalization of strategic priorities. In close collaboration with committees and members, it has also put in motion the new consultation mechanisms, and further deepened strategic partnerships that consolidate the work of Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments.
15. With the localization of the global agendas at its core, the report acknowledges that, auspiciously, the global multi-level governance system is looking favourably towards local government. An overarching framework, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – alongside the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing sustainable development – provide a ‘supremely ambitious and transformational vision’ of our economies and societies, and sets a course for sustainable development that will leave no one behind.
16. Members applauded the President’s report, commending the determination of our network to mobilize the means required to implement the 2030 Agenda through revitalized partnerships. At the same time, it was acknowledged that our joint actions are testament to the fact that the achievement of the global goals are impossible without proper enabling environments, and demonstrate our work to promote policy changes in this sense.
17. The floor was then given to the former UCLG Secretary General, **Mr Josep Roig**, (who had stepped down the day before following the appointment of Emilia Saiz by the Executive Bureau). Giving an overview of the organization and its evolution, he stressed that we are resilient, we are anti-fragile, and we know how to adapt to changes. We will survive and become stronger. The landscape of international organizations has become very crowded, he said, but many of them will not survive as long as we have, since we represent the general interests of the citizens at the local level. However, we need to strengthen our partnerships, with civil society in particular.
18. He further commented that UCLG continues to be the most important network of local and regional political representatives, not only at the UN, but also in many other international and regional initiatives. However, UCLG has to be in all the international tables and be part of all global conversations. Local democracy in a global world is key. We are united behind an agenda of dreams we have created together.
19. Concluding with a video representing the local movement, he commented that local leaders are like thousands of birds flying alone, but when they come together and change course, they are a powerful group. He finally thanked all members and his team in Barcelona for all their support across the years.
20. Members gave Mr Roig a standing ovation in recognition of his service as Secretary General of the organization from 2010 to 2017.

Decisions:

- **Members of the World Council took note of the 2017 Report.**
- **They were invited to share it widely with members and partners.**

REPORTS FROM THE SECTIONS

21. Due to time constraints, the Secretaries General of the Sections were asked to raise their hands if they had any important updates to share, rather than each Section

presenting an oral report, as had traditionally been the case. It was agreed to arrange for full reports of the sections to be presented in another way.

22. The Secretary General of CEMR, **Frédéric Vallier**, took the occasion to inform members about the Section's Policy Committee in Greece, where the issue of refugees in the Mediterranean was discussed. He further informed of the Section's work on gender equality with REFELA, which they hoped to pursue with the new UCLG Secretary General. He also highlighted work with PLATFORMA on a tool called "Connect", which would allow local governments across the world to contact each other to share expertise, and to be able to benefit from the support of the EU and other available funds. The Section has been working actively on the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda with national associations and engagement in the EU platform, he said. He concluded by inviting members to the next CEMR Conference on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion taking place in Bilbao in June.
23. The Secretary General of FLACMA, **Sergio Arredondo**, then took the floor to reiterate the Latin American Section's efforts and will to revitalize the movement in his continent, working within the framework of CORDIAL. He also thanked Parks Tau for attending FLACMA's Summit, which was the first time a UCLG President had attended.
24. The Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC, **Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi** shared the Section's work on SDG localization through the development of roadmaps, including work on learning and disaster risk reduction and decentralization.
25. She then passed the floor to the representative from the **City of Fuzhou**, who hosted the ASPAC Council meeting in 2017. Fuzhou is also the Secretariat of the UCLG ASPAC 21st Century Maritime Cooperation Committee, which aims to be a platform for cities across the world to exchange ideas and practices on maritime cooperation, marine science and the protection of the environment. They invited members to participate in the Committee.

Decision:

- **Members of the World Council took note of the reports presented by the Sections.**

ITEM 9: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STATUTORY AFFAIRS

26. In accordance with the change in agenda, UCLG Treasurer and Mayor of Kitchener, **Mr Berry Vrbanovic**, read the report of the Committee on Statutory Affairs, which met on Thursday 7 December.

Appointment of the Global Women's Caucus

27. During the electoral process of the last World Congress in Bogotá, particular attention was paid to the participation of elected women. In light of the remaining unbalance between genders and as informed by the Committee on Statutory Affairs, the World Council agreed to the appointment of a Women's Caucus, with representation from all Sections. This caucus will be invited to follow the work of the World Council.
28. A call for nominations to the Global Women's Caucus was launched in April. It was proposed that around 10 names be put forward, to ensure representation of female local political representatives that are not already in the governing bodies but that are active in our networks at regional or national level.
29. The following candidatures put forward by the Standing Committee on Gender Equality were recommended for approval by the World Council:

AFRICA

- Josephine Kasya, Chairperson of Kanungu District
- Célestine Ketcha Courtès, Mayor of Bangangté, Cameroon, President of the Network for Locally Elected Women of Africa (REFELA)
- Fatimetou Abdel Malick, Mayor of Tévragh Zeina

ASPAC

- Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Mayor of Penang Island
- Mar-len Abigail Sombillo Binay, Mayor of Makati

EUROPE

- Catarina Vaz Pinto, Councillor for Culture, City of Lisbon

LATAM

- María Claudia López, Secretary for Culture, City of Bogotá
- Luisiana Toledo Quiros, Deputy Mayor of Escazú

MEWA

- Sibel Uyar, Mayor of Urla

Decisions:

- **Members of the World Council approved the appointment of the Global Women's Caucus.**
- **The draft terms of reference will be circulated among members of the Committee on Statutory Affairs and the Standing Committee on Gender Equality, for finalization.**

Changes in the Governing Bodies

30. The Committee revised political representation in the governing bodies which has changed due to elections.
31. It was agreed that Berry Vrbanovic, on behalf of the Presidency, would lead discussions with representatives from relevant Sections to advance discussions on pending issues related to eligibility criteria where relevant and in preparation towards the next Congress.
32. Furthermore, an information campaign for members will be put in place to clearly explain rules and aims and objectives during 2018.
33. It was further agreed that 2018 will be key to finalize the bilateral agreements with the Sections which were put on hold until the discussions on the renewal of the membership structure are finalized.

Statutory meetings 2018- 2019

34. Members recalled that the hosting of UCLG annual statutory meetings is a crucial contribution to the network by UCLG members, and provides remarkable international visibility.
35. The members of the Committee on Statutory Affairs discussed the expressions of interest for the World Council of 2018.
36. The only candidature received is that of the **City of Madrid**, which proposes to ensure that the second edition on the Forum on Urban Violence and Education for Coexistence and Peace is integrated in the work of the organization.
37. Members expressed their gratitude to Madrid for agreeing to host the World Council in conjunction with this important event which will mobilize a big part of our membership.

38. They expressed the importance of trying to combine events to avoid double efforts from members and to ensure enhanced participation and synergies.
39. The Committee further discussed the candidatures for the 2019 Culture Summit.
40. Two very high quality candidatures were presented Cheboksary and Buenos Aires. The evaluation of the Culture Committee recommended to propose **Buenos Aires** to the World Council given their active participation in the work of the Committee.
41. In light of the concerns addressed before on the need to reduce the number of meetings, the World Secretariat was mandated to explore possibilities to also hold the Executive Bureau 2019 on the occasion of the Culture Summit.
42. Finally, the Committee considered the proposed dates for the **2018 UCLG Retreat** which due to a very busy first quarter, will take place from **22 to 26 January in Barcelona**.

Decision:

- **Members of the World Council took note of the report of the Committee on Statutory Affairs.**

ITEM 10: UCLG WORLD CONGRESS 2019

43. In accordance with the change in agenda, the item on the 2019 UCLG World Congress was presented by **Co-President Ries**.
44. The 2019 Congress will provide the opportunity to present progress in the implementation of the SDGs and their impacts at local level. It should also be the occasion to show the evolution of our World Organization within the framework of its 15th anniversary.
45. A call for candidatures was launched in the first quarter of 2016. As a result, several expressions of interest were sent to the World Secretariat but no formal candidacy was presented.
46. The Committee on Statutory Affairs, during its extraordinary session in Barcelona in September 2016, discussed the need to evaluate the format and dimension of the Congress in view of the experience in Bogotá, and recommended the extension of the deadline to submit candidacies to host the 2019 World Congress until March 2017, in order to allow more deliberations with potential hosts and to ensure fine-tuning with the new UCLG strategy to be adopted this year.
47. The Executive Bureau in Madrid took note of the potential candidatures received for the next Congress and agreed to receive candidatures until September 2017 in order to take a decision at the World Council in Hangzhou.
48. One candidature was received before the World Council in Hangzhou:
 - South African Local Government Association and eThekweni Municipality
49. The representative from South Africa, **Councillor Kosenhle Madlala**, was invited to take the floor. On behalf of Mayor Gumede, we are extremely honoured that UCLG has considered our bid to host the 2019 World Congress in Durban, he said, and expressed the firm belief in a universal bond of sharing that connects all humanity. Each Congress provides an opportunity to share our culture and wealth with the rest of the world. We hope to share, build and create new knowledges to feed the main global agendas, which are so important for all local and regional governments.

50. The Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC, **Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi**, then raised the issue of the expression of interest of Zhengzhou, voiced in Madrid and requested a representative from Zhengzhou to take the floor.
51. **Weijun Tong** from Zhengzhou reiterated his city's interest in hosting the world organization, commenting that they had undertaken serious research into the Terms of Reference of the meeting and have a good budget as well as a good hotel offer and logistics: communication, transportation, security, etc.
52. The representative from Zhengzhou also expressed that it is an active member of CPAFFC, and recalled the city's long history and cultural heritage, as well as its good geographical location in central china, connected as an important hub.
53. **Co-President Ries**, chairing the session, thanked the representative of Zhengzhou for this additional information, but recalled that no official candidature had been presented to the World Secretariat. The only official candidature presented by the deadline of September 2017 was that of SALGA and Durban.
54. He suggested, however, that Zhengzhou might present a candidature for another UCLG meeting. This suggestion was met with applause by members.
55. Members of the World Council confirmed the interest to honour the official bid had received, that of SALGA-eThekwini which in their view gathered all necessary features for a successful event in 2019.
56. They further acknowledged the commitment of Zhengzhou and welcomed the opportunity to visit them in the future, including the possibility of the World Council in 2020.

Decisions:

- **Members agreed to the proposal of SALGA-eThekwini to host the World Congress in 2019.**
- **They invited Zhengzhou to consider the option of organizing the World Council in 2020.**

ITEM 7: REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

57. The meeting of the Financial Management Committee took place on 7 December. The Executive Bureau received a report of the meeting with the main decisions taken from UCLG Treasurer **Berry Vrbanovic**.
58. The Executive Bureau recommended that the World Council approve the two following items.

Certified accounts 2016

59. The Financial Management Committee received the audited accounts for 2016, and noted that the financial year ended with a surplus of 4,506.37 euros. The audit report for UCLG was included in the background documents distributed to the members of the World Council.
60. The Treasurer informed that Executive Bureau advise the World Council to:
 - i. Approve the annual accounts at 31 December 2016
 - ii. Allocate the financial-year surplus as follows:
 - 20% of the surplus (€901.27) to voluntary reserves
 - carry over the remaining balance of €3,605.10

- iii. Give final discharge to the President Treasurer and Secretary General for the year 2016.

Budget 2018

61. The 2018 draft budget was presented and analyzed by members of the Financial Management Committee, who decided to submit to the Executive Bureau the recommendation that the World Council approve the 2018 draft budget.
62. As has been the case since 2015, the EU's commitment to support UCLG has been confirmed for 2018, and negotiations are in progress for the period 2019-2021. This new phase of the grant will also increase the financial resources for UCLG ASPAC, UCLG MEWA, UCLG Eurasia, and LATAM membership through CORDIAL. In 2018, the European Commission grant is expected to be a maximum of €1,610,000.
63. The draft budget presented is a conservative budget. Negotiations regarding new opportunities to increase resources for the World Organization are in progress and, if confirmed, members will be informed in the next Executive Bureau.
64. The Treasurer concluded by calling members' attention to the fact that the budget included in the background documents contains a mistake in the heading Total Expenditure: it should be 3,890,000 euros instead of 3,950,000 - equal to the total Income heading. Therefore, the budget will be in equilibrium, he explained.

Decisions:

- **Members of the World Council took note of the Treasurer's report and recommendations from the Financial Management Committee.**
- **They agreed to approve the final accounts at 31 December 2016, allocate financial-year surplus as outlined above, and give final discharge to the President, the Treasurer and the Secretary General for the year 2016.**
- **Members of the World Council approved the draft budget for 2018.**

ITEM 4: RENEWAL OF UCLG'S PARTNERSHIP WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION 2018-2020

65. **Co-President Roland Ries** recalled, as presented to the Executive Bureau in Madrid, the Strategic Partnership with the European Union, signed in January 2015 for a five-year period and attached to a three-year support programme (2015-2017), which has marked the work of the World Organization in all its dimensions.
66. The first three years of the implementation of the partnership can be described as a resounding success. It has allowed UCLG to expand its activities and to strengthen ties with the different parts of the network that have actively participated in defining the work plan and, in some cases, benefited from specific financial support. Furthermore, it has created greater synergies and working relations with other sister local government associations such as CLGF and AIMF.
67. Following a request by the European Commission (EC), in July UCLG submitted an action proposal for the next phase of implementation of the Strategic Partnership: 2018-2020.
68. The proposal builds on the assessment of the first two years of implementation of the partnership and seeks to adapt to the new global context by calling for the localization of the global development agenda. Given the strategic objectives of the organization, UCLG proposes to organize its work within the partnership agreement under the following headings: advocacy; monitoring and reporting; learning; and strengthening the network.

69. The feedback from the European Union has been positive and it has invited UCLG to include the proposal until 2021. A transitional agreement for 2018 will be arranged according to the yearly work programme to be adopted by the Council.

Decisions:

- **Members of the World Council took note of the progress made.**

ITEM 5: PRIORITIES FOR THE 2016-2019 MANDATE

70. **Co-President Roland Ries** recalled that UCLG started the consultation on the revision of its strategic priorities in 2015, in view of the renewal of the leadership in Bogotá, and the Habitat III Conference and adoption of the 2030 Agenda – an important framework for UCLG’s work internationally.
71. The Strategic Priorities cover a six-year period and are revised every three years on the occasion of the Congress, where their relevance is considered. Their development is an interactive exercise among all parts of the network.
72. He reminded members that this item presents the 2016-2022 UCLG Strategic Priorities that were recommended for adoption by the Executive Bureau and serve as the bases for our 2018 Work Plan.
73. Mr Ries then gave the floor to the Secretary General of UCLG, **Emilia Saiz**, who recalled that this strategy includes the new consultation mechanisms, and asked the room for formal approval.

Decisions:

- **Members of the World Council approved the UCLG Strategic Priorities for 2016-2022 by acclamation.**

ITEM 5.1: THE POLICY COUNCILS

POLITICAL MOTIONS

UCLG statement before the One Planet Summit 2017

74. Following the recommendation of the Policy Council on Resilient Cities, UCLG members welcomed the statement presented by the Councillor of Nantes and President of the Climate Chance Summit, **Ronan Dantec**, before the One Planet Summit.
75. On the occasion of the second anniversary of the Paris Agreement, the need to enhance commitments from all actors was highlighted, as well as the importance to pay particular attention to the financing of initiatives to fight climate change.
76. Mr Dantec recalled that the objective of the Summit was to strengthen the mobilization of all climate actors towards concrete action and strengthen the ambition of states towards COP24. The motion being presented was a declaration of UCLG’s support for these initiatives. See full statement in annex 2.
77. He concluded by recalling that UCLG has always counted on joint work to provide strong common messages, and supported the linking of the development and climate agendas, as advocated by UCLG.
78. Members supported the statement and called on networks to continue fostering solidarity among cities and local and regional governments, and to consolidate work within the framework of the Global Taskforce, as a reference mechanism for action of our constituency.

Support for women's political participation at local level

79. The President of FCM and Vice President of UCLG for North America, **Jenny Gerbasi**, presented a declaration to support women's political participation at local level. Ahead of the G7 Summit to take place in Canada in 2018, members of UCLG call upon G7 leaders to reaffirm their commitment to promoting women's participation in policymaking at local level and make efforts to improve data on the proportion of seats held by women in local governments at country level. See declaration in annex 3.
80. Representatives from the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces, including the Vice President of UCLG for Europe and Mayor of Soria **Carlos Martinez**, and from the **Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions** expressed their support for the declaration, stressing that women are severely underrepresented in political decision-making and that, to achieve the SDGs, it is crucial to address this issue.

Statement on the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day

81. Following a proposal by **Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces** on Anti-Corruption Day, UCLG local leaders were called to endorse a motion to promote a statement stressing their commitment to fight corruption and promote transparency in governance and public policies. See full statement in annex 4.
82. Members of the World Council made a pledge to foster transparency, accountability and open government, and fight corruption.

Decision:

- **Members of the World Council adopted the motions presented and proposed two amendments which are reflected in the annexes to this report.**

ITEM 6: 2018 WORK PLAN

83. 2017 saw UCLG focus on implementing partnerships to achieve international agendas, launching the GOLD V process, increasing the engagement of our political leadership and consolidating our role as a learning network.
84. The proposed work plan for 2018 is supported by our partnership with the European Union for the period 2018-2021. It seeks to build on our advocacy work over the past two years and adapt to the new global context by focusing on the localization of the global development agenda. The facilitation of the amplified voice of local and regional governments needs to be the main focus of UCLG, beyond logos and institutions, and particularly through the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments.
85. The actions of the work plan are built around UCLG's strategic priorities, namely:
 - a. Advocate for increased national and international support for, and the recognition of, local and regional governments in the achievement of the global agendas. Raise awareness of the global goals among local and regional governments so that they can implement them.
 - b. Bring local monitoring and reporting information to global fora to voice local and regional governments' interests and bring their experiences and visions to complement central government reporting.
 - c. Facilitate learning, decentralized cooperation and exchange among local governments.
 - d. Identify and highlight successful implementation efforts at local level.

86. In addition, special efforts will be made to support UCLG's Regional Sections, to set up the local4action hub, and to facilitate political participation through new consultations mechanism, in particular the UCLG policy councils.

Decision:

- **Members of the World Council adopted 2018 work plan.**

ITEM 8: CONSULTATION MECHANISMS: WORK PLANS AND REPORTS

87. The work developed by Committees and Working Groups has always significantly contributed to the work of the UCLG network as a whole. The achievements seen since their inception have been great, and those same achievements and lessons learnt allow us to move ahead and reflect on the progress made in fostering the upscaling of practices, and to define a strategy that will lead us to develop a new narrative for our movement.
88. Throughout the past year, options have been explored to expand work and enhance relations between the World Secretariat and specific strategic Committees. We are now looking at enhancing relationships between the political leadership and the Committees.
89. The World Secretariat was mandated to operationalize these decisions and conversations were held with the existing Committees and Working Groups, including during a two-day campus in January this year. Further discussions took place during the Presidency meeting and UCLG Retreat in February.
90. Besides the existing Committees dealing with institutional aspects (Financial Management Committee, Committee on Statutory Affairs and Standing Committee on Gender Equality), a number of consultation mechanisms will be active during the 2016-2019 mandate.
91. It was approved that, on a technical level, a number of Committees and Working Groups, would no longer work under this format but their tasks would be continued under different mechanisms.
92. The final structure was ratified as follows:
- a. Four Committees:
 - Culture, co-led by Buenos Aires and Mexico
 - Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights, co-led by Plaine Commune
 - Urban Strategic Planning, co-led by Durban and Porto Alegre
 - Local Economic and Social Development, co-led by FCM and FAMSI
 - b. Three Fora:
 - Intermediary Cities, led by Chefchaouen
 - Peripheral Cities, led by Nanterre
 - CEOs of Local Government Associations, co-led by VNG and FCM
 - c. Two Permanent Working Groups:
 - Capacity and Institution Building, co-led by VNG and FCM
 - Territorial Prevention and Management of Crises, led by CUF
 - d. Six Communities of Practice:
 - Urban Innovation, led by Guangzhou
 - Mobility, co-led by Strasbourg and Jakarta
 - Social Economy, led by Seoul
 - Food Security, led by the French Association of Regions
 - Transparency and Accountability, led by FEMP

- Digital Cities, led by Bilbao

Decisions:

- **Members of the World Council ratified the renewed structure of consultation mechanisms.**
- **They took note of the work plans envisaged for 2018.**
- **They mandated the consultation mechanisms to carry out the work plans for 2018.**
- **They took note of the written reports of activities for 2017.**
- **They acknowledged the great contributions made by members.**

CLOSING

93. Given time constraints, **Co-President Ries** then wrapped up the meeting. He thanked members for joining the fruitful discussions and once again extended gratitude to the Mayor of Hangzhou and his team for the hospitality and organization.
94. He closed the session by reminding members that his city, Strasbourg, would host the next session of the Executive Bureau from 23 to 26 May 2018 and invited members to attend.

Item 3
✓ For information

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENCY FOR 2018

Summary and recommendations

2018 has been the year of partnerships for UCLG. The World Organization is consolidating the partnerships that have been developed with international organizations and civil society during the process of negotiation of the World Agendas. Throughout this year, additional efforts have been made to ensure that the network will be able to keep and enhance the existing collaborations with sister organizations such as ICLEI and the other members of the Global Taskforce but also with new partners such as: International IDEA, the International Union for Public Transport, the Cities Programme of the Global Compact and others. This was clearly staged at the UCLG Retreat 2018 edition which focussed on partnerships and gathered over 180 participants.

This year will be further remembered as the first iteration of the Local and Regional Governments Forum within the framework of the High Level Political Forum. A momentous occasion with important political impact which is expected to transform into policy influence in the coming years. Over 300 local and regional government delegates took over the conversations on the Sustainable Development Goals for two full days, and the localization of the 2030 Agenda took over the social media of the High-Level Political Forum. Housing, financing, equality, accountable institutions and enhanced partnerships were among the key priorities of the constituency during the event.

2018 is also the year of the UCLG Waves of Action: on Housing, Migration and Finance. We have been able to bring about a positive tide in the above issues which have led to over 20 cities and metropolitan entities joining the Cities for Adequate Housing Declaration, asking to make a shift from commodity to human right. 14 cities have joined our programme on Migration in the Mediterranean, with an additional four set to join us in the following year. These cities have originated the wave that will culminate with inputs in the Global Compact for Migration to be adopted in Marrakesh. Finally the first UCLG Strategy on the Localization of Municipal finance has led to the creation of an international coalition calling for renewed financial mechanisms and over 20 cities are joining the Community of Practice in this topic.

Our role as Learning Network has been enhanced with the training of trainers dimension and over 25 workshops have been organised around the world on Local Action for the SDGs.

The documentation of our membership's visions and experiences has led to the publication of the second "Towards the Localization of the SDGs" report, as the backbone of our advocacy strategy before the HLPF and has, for the first time, gathered inputs for other local government organizations active in the Global Taskforce, contributing to the consolidation of the single instrument to amplify the local government voices. This year has also seen the enhancement of the policy debate spaces within the World Organization with the establishment of our Policy Councils which have fostered debates with national governments and other actors within the framework of our governing bodies as an important milestone to our work before international institutions.

Last but not least, it is worth highlighting the important step forward of the regional networks through the UCLG Sections which have dramatically increased activities in every continent, providing visibility but also learning and networking opportunities.

Our partnership with the European Union for the 2018-2021 period has once again proven critical to carry out our work plan but has also created unexpected opportunities to enlarge our collaborations and empower our Regional Sections.

In the following pages, this report presents the activities carried out throughout 2018, organized according to the 2016-2022 Strategic Priorities presented to the Executive Bureau in Madrid in April 2017 and the Work Plan adopted by the World Council in Hangzhou in December 2017.

The Intervention Logic in Annex 2 presents a brief overview of the four working areas under the partnership with the European Union such as Advocacy, Monitoring and Follow up, Learning and the UCLG Network, and Leadership and Governance. Members will be able to have an overview at a glance through a traffic light system where green represents achieved activities, and blue and yellow represent ongoing activities.

The World Council is invited to:

1. **Take note** of the report of the Presidency for 2018 and the Intervention Logic in Annex 2.

Item 3 – Annex 1
✓ For information

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENCY FOR 2018

**LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS, KEY ACTORS IN THE
UNIVERSAL DEVELOPMENT AGENDAS**

2018 at a Glance

1. 2018 has been the year of partnerships for UCLG. The World Organization is consolidating the partnerships that have been developed with international organizations and civil society during the process of negotiation of the World Agendas. Throughout this year, additional efforts have been made to ensure that the network will be able to keep and enhance the existing collaborations with sister organizations such as ICLEI and the other members of the Global Taskforce but also with new partners such as: International Idea, the International Union for Public Transport, the Cities Programme of the Global Compact and others. This was clearly staged at the UCLG Retreat 2018 edition which focussed on partnerships and gathered over 180 participants.
2. This year will be further remembered as the first iteration of the Local and Regional Governments Forum within the framework of the High Level Political Forum. A momentous occasion with important political impact which is expected to transform into policy influence in the coming years. Over 300 local and regional government delegates took over the conversations on the Sustainable Development Goals for two full days, and the localization of Agenda 2030 took over the social media of the High Level Political Forum. Housing, financing, equality, accountable institutions and enhanced partnerships were among the key priorities of the constituency during the event.
3. 2018 is also the year of the UCLG Waves of Action: on Housing, Migration and Finance. We have been able to bring about a positive tide in the above issues which have led to over 20 cities and metropolitan entities joining the Cities for Adequate Housing Declaration, asking to make a shift from commodity to human right. 14 cities have joined our programme on Migration in the Mediterranean, with an additional 4 set to join us in the following year. These cities have originated the wave that will culminate with inputs in the Global Compact for Migration to be adopted in Marrakesh. Finally the first UCLG Strategy on Localization of Municipal finance has led to the creation of an international coalition calling for renewed financial mechanisms and over 20 cities are joining the Community of Practice in this topic.
4. Our role as Learning Network has been enhanced with the training of trainers dimension and over 25 workshops have been organised around the world on Local Action for the SDGs.
5. The documentation of our membership's visions and experiences has led to the publication of the second "Towards the Localization of the SDGs" report, as the backbone to our advocacy strategy before the HLPF and has, for the first time, gathered inputs for other local government organizations active in the Global Taskforce, contributing to the consolidation of the single instrument to amplify the local government voices. This year has also seen the enhancement of the policy

debate spaces within the World Organization with the establishment of our Policy Councils which have fostered debates with national governments and other actors within the framework of our governing bodies as an important milestone to our work before international institutions.

6. Last but not least, it is worth highlighting the important step forward of the regional networks through the UCLG Sections which have dramatically increased activities in every continent, providing visibility but also learning and networking opportunities.
7. Our partnership with the European Union for the 2018-2021 periods has once again proven critical to carry out our work plan but has also created unexpected opportunities to enlarge our collaborations and empower our Regional Sections.
8. In the following pages, this report presents the activities carried out throughout 2018, organized according to the 2016-2022 Strategic Priorities presented to the Executive Bureau in Madrid in April 2017 and the Work Plan adopted by the World Council in Hangzhou in December 2017.

1. ADVOCACY

9. *United Cities and Local Governments has amplified the voices of local and regional governments at the most strategic moments of the international agenda. Our advocacy at the World Urban Forum and the High Level Political Forum has allowed for a strong push towards establishing a dialogue between local governments, national governments and the UN system with as final objective the recognition of the role that our constituency needs to play in the global development agendas.*

2030 Development Agenda

Local and Regional Governments at the High-Level Political Forum

10. The High Level Political Forum (HLPF) is the United Nations' Central Platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Over **300 local and regional governments representatives, including 70 Mayors and Regional Presidents, mobilized during the 2018 HLPF**, addressing SDG 11 and its key interlinkages with other SDGs, with a special focus on housing.
11. The meetings of our constituency in the framework of the HLPF kick-started with the meeting of the Global Taskforce which worked on a joint position and set the priorities and messages for the days ahead. The outcome of the deliberations was the **Statement of the Local and Regional Governments issued by Global Taskforce**, which called on the United Nations' System to not leave local governance and territorial cohesion behind.
12. The constituency of local and regional governments exposed the need for local and regional governments to be able to **access funding in order to own the 2030 Agenda**. The constituency also advocated for the adoption of new models of governance that involve all spheres of government. Models of governance that are, in turn, essential to foster the inclusion of local communities and ensuring that no-one, nowhere, is being left behind.
13. The Statement further called on National governments and the international community to **promote the implementation of other development agendas - such as the New Urban Agenda- and the linkages between them to accelerate the Global Goals**. The commitments of local and regional governments are reiterated in the Statement which while celebrating the first Forum of Local and Regional Governments calls on the UN System to go a step further and to secure spaces of dialogue between spheres of government in further editions of the HLPF.

14. The first edition of the **Local and Regional Governments' Forum within the HLPF 2018** addressed the priorities of the constituency and presented the essential role that service delivery by local governments played in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
15. Participants advocated towards enhancing local involvement in the SDG strategies and reporting processes both at national and international level; they showcased the effectiveness of integrated territorial planning in building resilient and inclusive communities, and **highlighted the need to re-thinking financing at the local and regional spheres, and to set up an effective monitoring system at the local level. They further highlighted the importance of creating adequate frameworks to protect the right to housing as pillar for achievement of SDG 11 and called for the empowerment of women and strong, resourced local governments as underlying key factor for most goals.**
16. A **High-Level Luncheon** took place in the framework of the Local and Regional Governments Forum, creating a unique opportunity for the highest level of the international system, represented by Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations, Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of UN Habitat as well as the ECOSOC President and representatives of the President of the General Assembly to engage in a closed-doors exchange on priorities from the different parts of the world, further **contributing to further our collective strength before the United Nations.**
17. In collaboration with the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, the **Local 2030 Network held and Special Event**, a platform for multi-stakeholder engagement that gathered experts from the private, public, and Non-Governmental sectors to discuss how to best implement the global sustainability agendas –with a special focus on climate and resilience-. Participants addressed topics such as the feminization of politics and women's participation in the public sphere, the role of local and regional governments and the private sector when planning for disaster risk reduction, and how to work together to mitigate climate change. This full day of exchanges allowed identifying possible synergies and joint actions at local level that could engage all stakeholders. The work within the framework of Local 2030 is an important contribution to the localization of the global agendas and provides an important window to the work of the different UN Agencies.

The Local and Regional Governments' Constituency at the World Urban Forum

18. The 9th edition of the World Urban Forum (WUF), which took place in Kuala Lumpur, was the first session to focus on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. A delegation of representatives of local and regional governments mobilized at the **World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments** to evaluate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
19. The Statement of the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments affirmed our **positioning, together with civil society, as guardians of the Habitat III legacy and as those best positioned to monitor its implementation.**
20. UCLG was **the representative of local and regional governments in the Advisory Board** in charge of drafting the conclusions of the event to be submitted to the UN Habitat Council under the title, "Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Cities 2030".
21. Local governments called to improve, municipal infrastructure finance, create an enabling environment and strengthen effective multilevel governance, in order to allow local and regional governments to contribute to global sustainability. In order to put cities and regions at the centre of international decision-making processes, the World Assembly called to **embark on a new era of partnership in global**

governance and renew the relationship between our constituency and the UN, within a broader context of UN reform.

Our Strategy on Local Finance

22. In order to meet the challenges of sustainable urban development, the legislative frameworks must open the door for an equitable distribution of financial influx.
23. UCLG has been working to ensure that adequate instruments are developed and put to the service of its membership. Together with Metropolis, UCLG set up the Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV), conceived as a technical assistance tool **aimed at helping local and regional governments gain access to financial resources**. In order to enhance its capacity to deliver, agreements have been reached concerning **the revitalization and integration of FMDV as a UCLG mechanism and the joint definition of a UCLG Strategy on Localizing Finance**.
24. The **Strategy on Local Finance** aims to **build a new narrative** on localizing finance for sustainable urbanization, which needs to elaborate on: how to increase local financial engineering capacities; mobilizing finance towards local levels of government (where it is most needed); and accessing long-time sustainable investments, as well as ensuring that all parts of the World Organization express common messages to advance the agenda on localizing financing for sustainable urbanization. **The key components of the strategy are:**
 - a. Mapping the mechanisms and the initiatives available within the UCLG network and setting up instruments to support fiscal decentralization. This mapping will serve as a base for defining priorities for action.
 - b. Creating and co-leading a global multi-stakeholder reference platform as an advocacy space for the implementation of the Global Partnership on Localizing Financing through dialogue and cooperation with key players of the local financing value chain
 - c. Stimulating institutional momentum and debate at international key moments, especially during the Financing for Development Forum, the High Level Political Forums on SDGs, and COPs to share progress and key transformative propositions on Localizing Financing, aiming to gain more support and partners for systemic change.
25. Following the UCLG Barcelona Retreat in January, a dialogue was initiated with UNCDF with the goal of building a first “demonstrative coalition” (led by UNCDF, UCLG) targeting pilot investments in some municipalities, in order to show institutional and private investors the potential, in this specific context, of an investment niche in municipal infrastructure.
26. A **High-level Dialogue with financial institutions, gathering over 100 partners, was co-organised** in April hosted by the city of Malaga to discuss **the financial mechanisms and regulatory framework reforms necessary to trigger a paradigm shift towards the localization of the SDGs**. These partners are the first members of a global coalition advocating for the implementation of an enabling environment for cities to fulfil their potential as development partners

Climate Agenda

Cities IPCC Conference in Edmonton

27. Convened by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and co-organized by different networks of local and regional governments, The Cities IPCC Conference took place in Edmonton, CA, with the aim **to establish a global**

research agenda working to address the key gaps by the academic, practitioner and city policy makers.

28. The conference was preceded by the “Change for Climate” Global Mayors Summit, providing the views of local government leaders.
29. The partner organizations released the Joint Statement **“The Science We Need For The Cities We Want: Working together to implement the global research and action agenda on cities and climate change”**, describing how to work together in order to support the implementation of the climate agenda, **agreeing on four key commitments to make it a reality: Promote and implement the global research agenda** on cities and climate change; **Stimulate research and the production of knowledge** on the diversity of issues related to cities and climate change; and **Encourage science-based and evidence-based climate action in cities; and Create and strengthen partnerships for more effective research, policy and climate action.**
30. The initiative has led to the release by the European Development Investment Bank of significant funding for bridging the data gap in cities.

Talanoa Dialogues

31. The main purpose of the Talanoa Dialogues is to foster the proactive implications of all parties in the achievement of the Paris Agreement, by helping countries implement and enhance their Nationally Determined Contributions, sharing stories and experiences, as well as by maintaining dialogues so others can benefit from them.
32. The Local and Regional Governments Constituency Facilitates the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues; our aim is to translate the global processes into concrete local realities in order to enhance the presence of local and regional governments in the climate agenda, and practice the implementation of the Paris Agreement by and connecting it with other sustainability agendas.
33. The Talanoa Dialogue for Africa, held in the framework of the 1st World Forum of Intermediary Cities, was a space for exchanging good practices of vertical integration of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
34. The Policy Council on Resilience held a dialogue in the framework of the Talanoa Dialogues which approached environmental policies to improve sustainability and resilience in urban settlements as well as responsible consumption and production, during the UCLG Executive Bureau in May.

Global Climate Action Summit

35. The Global Climate Action Summit brought together stakeholders (from national spheres of government to the private sector) from all over the world, including over 100 local elected leaders, with the goal of accelerating actions towards achieving the Paris Agreement. The stakeholders gathered in San Francisco issued the **Call to Global Climate Action**, calling for collaborative and transformative actions at all levels and in all sectors of society in order to fulfil the commitments acquired during COP21.
36. The Call To Global Climate Action called to accelerate climate action by:
 - a. Committing to increased climate ambition and updated, enhanced, Nationally Determined Contributions by the year 2020
 - b. Charting a Clear Path to developing net-zero climate emissions by mid-century, and committing towards a long-term economic and technological transformation that ensures decent jobs and increased resilience

- c. Empowering bottom-up climate action, via supporting and accelerating climate action at local and regional levels.
37. The Call to Global Climate Action ended by signalling the critical milestones that were critical for mobilizing stakeholders, such as the Talanoa Dialogue at the upcoming COP 24, as well as the UN Secretary-General's Climate Summit.

Resilience

8th edition of the World Water Forum

38. UCLG has **represented the constituency at the World Water Forum**, and is the co-organizer, together with ICLEI, the Global Water Operators' Partnership Alliance (GWOPA), the World Water Council and Brazilian partners, of the **International Conference of Local and Regional Authorities**, which aims to facilitate local and regional governments to share their experiences and solutions on water and sanitation. This year's edition of the Forum was held in Brasilia, under the theme "**Sharing Water**", and aimed at promoting awareness, building political commitment and triggering action on critical water issues.
39. The International Conference of Local and Regional governments released the **Brasilia Local and Regional Governments' Call for Action on Water and Sanitation**, encompassing the result of the discussions which took place throughout the conference and delivering five recommendations to stakeholders.

2. MONITORING

40. *Our organization is establishing a framework for monitoring and reporting activities on the implementation of the global development agendas and driving the production of the next GOLD Report, to be published in 2019. The Global Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralization (GOLD) has team has also drafted a report on the state of local democracy throughout the world.*

2nd "Towards the Localization of the SDGs" Report

41. The monitoring and reporting system of the SDGs is currently organized through the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) that are submitted to the sessions of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). In line with our ongoing work on localizing the SDGs, the Global Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralization (GOLD) is supporting this effort by contributing to the HLPF's yearly assessment cycles with reports on implementation of the global agendas from the perspective of local and regional governments.
42. For the second year in a row, the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, has presented the report of the local and regional governments' constituency on the Localization of the SDGs to the 2018 High-Level Political Forum. The report is developed by UCLG within the framework of its research agenda, under the Global Observatory of Local Democracy and Decentralization.
43. The Report was fruit of exchanges and collaborations between the various partners of the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments. It builds on a methodology that conciliates the work of regional expert teams, contributions from other networks, institutions and members of the GTF as well as a qualitative survey, distributed to the whole membership of UCLG. Over the last two years, UCLG collected 101 surveys, of which 46 were gathered directly from municipal governments. Responses are increasing in absolute numbers and improving in the quality and depth of the replies.

GOLD V

44. Following the UCLG Retreat and Campus in January, UCLG launched the preparation of the 5th report of the Global Observatory on Decentralization and Local Democracy (GOLD). Bringing together the expertise of local and regional governments, researchers from different geographical regions and UCLG Committees and partners through a participatory process, this edition will study the localization of the SDGs and the other global agendas.
45. At the current stage, seven regional teams are fully mobilized to create the regional chapters that will compose the GOLD V report. By November 2018, UCLG expects to have a first round of working drafts available, in order to begin engaging the regional sections, the committees, and the international partners, and thus the validation process of the report's output. An international workshop in February will gather all these stakeholders, contributors and partners to work out the path to a general, definitive draft by May 2019.
46. A smaller extract of this work will end up becoming the 3rd Local and Regional Governments' report to the 2019 HLPF, to complete the assessment and reporting process in the highest institutional venue, and also contribute to the process that the UN will finalize by publishing its own 1st Quadrennial Report on the Implementation of the SDGs.
47. The full GOLD V report will eventually be presented at the next UCLG World Congress in Durban, South Africa, in November 2019.

The Housing Chapter

48. The GOLD V report will also include a thematic reporting effort on one of the core political issues raised by the current global conversation on development and the global goals themselves (e.g., SDG 11.1): housing, the right to adequate housing and housing policies as developed by or affecting local and regional governments.
49. The Report on Housing aims at contributing to support the work to be developed in the Community of Practice set up by the signatories of the Municipalist Declaration on the Right to Housing which is transforming in a worldwide action across the constituency of local and regional governments. The report further contributes to the Wave of Action on Housing with an in-depth report built by regional expert teams for Latin America, Asia-Pacific, Africa and Europe.

World Observatory on Subnational Governments' Finance and Investment

50. Country Fact Sheets are being collected for over 45 countries. This mixed effort is expected to improve, update and upgrade the massive amount of quality information that UCLG and the OECD had already collected in their joint publication of 2016. To do so, regional focal points have been set up to collect the data. In partnership with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United Nations' Capital Development Fund, the French Development Agency and Decentralization and Local Governance (DeLog), it will validate the reliability of the public data on subnational finance.
51. This process will not only allow to update the existing database and country profiles, but also to start a systematic analysis on the effectiveness of fiscal decentralization processes worldwide. A Steering Committee including all relevant stakeholders and contributors will be held in December. It will be an opportunity to share and present preliminary results to all interested partners.

Monitoring of the New Urban Agenda

52. The invaluable role that local and regional governments can play in the effective implementation of the urban agenda and the SDGs, as well as the need to organize

a more structural dialogue specific to our constituency, have guided our contribution to the **Expert Group Meeting led by UN-Habitat in Granada in March 2018**, to which UCLG was invited in representation of the local government constituency. The event, which focused on the development of the Quadrennial Report on the Monitoring of the New Urban Agenda, had a strong representation from UN institutions, Regional UN Commissions and agencies as well as the World Bank and a few experts from Member States.

53. Local and regional government representatives support the integration of references to the mechanisms developed by different local and regional government networks in order to contribute to monitoring and data gathering. **The outcome of the Granada meeting was revised by UN-Habitat**, presented to the Committee of Permanent Representatives of Member States in Nairobi and submitted to the UN Secretary General's Office. The final version was published by UN-Habitat and presented to the HLPF via their Quadrennial Report in July.

3. Learning

54. *Throughout this year, the learning team of UCLG has worked towards providing local and regional governments with tools to improve local management trigger inspiration and innovation emanating from peer exchanges. It has further consolidates the training of trainers methodology around SDGs with actions promoted by members all over the world.*

Action Learning

55. UCLG's strategic mandate is to support the learning of its members by promoting decentralized co-operation and international co-operation between local governments and their associations, as well as to promote peer to peer ties as a means for mutual learning.
56. In the vein of promoting peer-to-peer learning among municipalities, UCLG, FLACMA, the International Labour Organization, and The Vice-Ministry of Autonomies of Bolivia held a peer learning event in Riberalta, Bolivia with the aim of **building a cooperation and peer-learning network to strengthen policy development** and supporting small and medium cities in the Amazon region. In it, participants from cities, regions and local government associations from Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru traded experiences on strategic urban planning, conservation, local economic development, and green jobs under a South-South focus.
57. Together with UCLG ASPAC, the international cities platform Connective Cities and its initiators, the Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and the Surabaya City Government organized the Peer-Learning Workshop on **"Building a Local Government Alliance for Localising the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030 in Asia-Pacific"**.
58. Held in Surabaya, Indonesia in conjunction with the UCLG ASPAC Congress, the event gathered experienced Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) practitioners from the Asia-Pacific region and from Germany, to exchange their views and experiences on DRR policies and instruments. The results of this workshop will be utilized for future policy making on disaster risk reduction and preparedness issues, and nurture a Learning strategy focusing on localizing and implementation of the Sendai Framework.

Localization of the SDGs

59. **Two learning sessions** took place at the World Urban Forum: a training event with the focus on localizing the SDGs in medium sized cities, which highlighted the

role of regions, intermediary cities and local governments' associations in localizing the SDGs, and was co-organized by UCLG, the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG) and the Barcelona Provincial Council; and a **Role Play about Waste Management and Circular Economy**, which allowed participants to discuss and evaluate the impact of different policies and the variables that influence decision-making on waste management.

60. The Metropolitan Municipality of Quito, which had been the host city of the Habitat III Conference, held **two Training of Trainers workshops** on the localization of the SDGs. Together with the Andalusian Fund of Municipalities for International Solidarity (FAMSI), and the Union of Ibero-American Capital Cities (UCCI), UCLG supported the preparation of the workshops.
61. **A series of Learning Modules for the localization of the SDGs have been developed** and are being used to train participants. The programme of the workshops included a general introduction about the creation process of the 2030 Agenda, as well as presentations emphasizing the importance of awareness and active civic inclusion in the process of localization at the regional level.
62. The challenges faced by South African city planners and managers in the current context are immense. **The eThekweni Municipality hosted a Training of Trainers learning event on the Localization of the SDGs**. The UCLG learning team organized the workshop together with the eThekweni Municipal Academy and UCLG-A's African Local Governments Associations (ALGA). **One of the main outcomes of this discussion was to bring an African perspective to the chapters of the learning module**.
63. Having been tried and tested throughout workshops during the year and, in a session with partners from UNDP, UN Habitat and the Barcelona Provincial Council, **the final version of the Localizing the SDGs Toolkit was streamlined and presented in September** in a session where some of the exercises were tested. The goals of Module 2 are twofold and interrelated: to find out how the SDGs and the principles behind Agenda 2030 contribute to urban planning, and how urban planning contributes to achieving the SDGs.
64. The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs were the main topics in the UCLG-Eurasia Congress in Cheboksary. The Congress hosted a learning seminar on localizing the SDGs as well as a workshop facilitated by the UCLG World Secretariat, jointly to the UCLG Culture Committee, that focused on concrete examples on the alignment of local strategies and plans with the global goals, with a particular attention towards cultural policies as the fourth pillar of sustainability.

4. The UCLG Waves of Action

65. *The Waves of Action, established during the 2018 Retreat and Campus, strive to engage the whole network in time-bound actions (of up to 18 months) around specific themes related to the global agenda. Currently, there are two active waves of action (on Housing, and on Migration) which focus on a policy priority and involve action in at least three of UCLG's four strategic priorities, namely: advocacy, learning, monitoring and implementation.*

Migration

66. The main focus of the Wave of Action on Migration lies around **changing the negative perspective of this phenomenon**, and to demonstrate the positive aspects of migration through joint work among the World Secretariat, Sections and Committees, under the motto **"all migrants, all citizens"**.

67. The **Mediterranean City-to-City Migration Project** (MC2CM) aims to contribute to improving the governance of migration at local level in cities in Europe and the Southern Mediterranean. The initiative is led by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), in partnership with UCLG and UN-Habitat. The project involves the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and is co-financed by the EC and the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC). The cities participating are: Amman, Beirut, Lisbon, Lyon, Madrid, Tangier, Tunis, Turin and Vienna.
68. With the support of the European Commission, the second phase of the project, which is set to end in 2021, has started development in the terrain, with even more cities and partners mainly from the Global South.
69. The main focus of the Wave of Action on Migration throughout 2018 has and will continue to be **the drafting of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**. Though UCLG celebrates the commitments undertaken in the zero draft of the Global Compact, we cannot help but stress the need of further involvement of local and regional governments in the global migration processes.
70. UCLG has followed-up on the discussions of the Global Compact, and has been advocating for the inclusion of the perspectives of the constituency at the meetings and the discussions which have been taking place among member states of the UN. We strive for Local and Regional Governments to play a larger role in the Global Compact than the one we already have, particularly on the implementation process and throughout the definition of the Compact. The issue of managing migration has been growing, initiatives and debates are flourishing, and as the sphere of government closest to citizens, local and regional governments are the sphere best suited to contribute to improving the governance on migration and address migration related challenges.

Right to Housing

71. Under the motto **“Housing is a right, not a commodity”**, UCLG strives to defend the right to housing in the framework of the Right to the City, together with a diversity of actors. UCLG is also actively involved in **“Make the Shift”**, a movement led by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing, Leilani Farha, in partnership with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The movement seeks to mobilize a large range of actors to push for housing to be seen as a human right.
72. Housing as a means to ensure the Right to the City was present at the World Urban Forum. In special session titled **“Housing at the centre, as a vector for socioeconomic inclusion”**, participants from national and local governments shared proposals on how to reposition housing at the centre of urbanization and change the vision on housing from beyond a building-only perspective.
73. Leilani Farha, **UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing**, participated via a video message which framed the subsequent conversations. In it, she underscored the idea of housing as a means to ensure security and inclusion. Ensuring an increased stock of affordable housing was seen as one of the main ways in which to foster the inclusion of at-risk populations in cities.
74. In the framework of the Shift campaign, UCLG advocated for housing to be seen as a human right at the Human Rights Council session convened by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing in Geneva: **“How to shift housing from a commodity to a human right”**. Promoting human rights-based housing strategies throughout all spheres of government, tackling worldwide housing commodification and moving forward the discussions around housing governance were key points of the session, and moving forward the relationship between spheres of government was seen as essential in order to implement the Shift.

75. Housing was a fundamental topic of the Local and Regional Governments' delegation at the High Level Political Forum. Mayor of Barcelona Ada Colau presented the Declaration of Cities for Adequate Housing at a special session, prior to the Local and Regional Governments' Forum, titled: **"#MakeTheShift: Cities for the Right to Adequate Housing"**, arguing for Housing to be considered as a right and not a commodity in order for cities to fulfil the human rights of their inhabitants.
76. UCLG members' common message on the right to housing was reinforced by the adoption of the initiative by the Mayors of Berlin, Montevideo, Madrid, Montreal and Strasbourg, as well as the Vice President of Plaine Commune and New York's Deputy Mayor on district strategy, who expressed their commitment towards the right to housing and adopted the Declaration as their own. As of October 2018, a grand total of 20 cities and metropolitan entities have adopted the Declaration.

5. Strengthening the Network

2018 UCLG Retreat & Campus

77. With the goal of shaping the priorities of the constituency and creating and expanding synergies among the different parts of the network, the UCLG Retreat and Campus has grown into an important moment to enhance dialogue and shape the strategy of the constituency. **The 2018 edition has become the largest session of the Retreat to date, with over 180 participants.**
78. Strengthening partnerships was one of the main goals of the Retreat, as well as a constant for UCLG throughout the year. As such, making the African "Know Your City" initiative global through enhanced partnerships between UCLG and Slum Dwellers International and Cities Alliance was one of the main outcomes of the discussions. Enhancing collaboration with Public Services International and World Enabled was yet another of the commitments undertaken during the Retreat.
79. **The Right to the City, Resilience, Multilevel Governance and Opportunities for All were confirmed as priority policies for the constituency**, with the right to housing also being a key issue of the discussion regarding the Right to the City and how to ensure the rights of citizens.
80. **The Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments (GTF) also held a special session during the Retreat, which focused on how it could contribute towards achieving the global agendas.**
81. Based on the recommendations of an expert in gender equality and gender mainstreaming, **an all-UCLG Gender Strategy will be developed** based on a self-assessment study and a proposal of specific actions to undertake in the different parts of the organization. The strategy will include guidelines on gender-sensitive activities and policies, in close consultation with the UCLG Standing Committee on Gender Equality.
82. During the Retreat, the position and tasks of the constituency of local and regional governments at the then upcoming High Level Political Forum were discussed. **The ideal measures to take at the High Level Political Forum were adopted during the Retreat, and among them were:**
 - a) **Developing a joint position paper** to present the local governments' perspectives at the Forum, which became the foundation for the Statement of the Local and Regional Governments' Constituency.
 - b) **Active participation in the Local 2030 Hub**, in particular in the Capacity Building Component

- c) **Exploring possibilities to address the data gap and indicator follow up of the indicators of the 2030 Agenda**
- d) **Showcasing the Training of Trainers around the SDGs and localization initiative**

83. **The Retreat ended with a session on Reshaping Local Finance** where **members** of the constituency, together with UNCDF and FMDV issued the key components of the UCLG Strategy on Local Finance in order to tackle this issue.

Policy Councils

84. The Policy Councils are the consultation mechanisms that drive forward UCLG's 2016-2022 strategic priorities. Their work is to develop policy recommendations, enhance policy ownership and renew the involvement of a broader group of political leaders. The Policy Councils all focus on strategic topics, which reflect both the key issues in the global agendas and the priority axes contained in the Bogotá Commitment and are, as follows: **Right to the City and Inclusive Territories; Opportunities for All, Culture and City Diplomacy: Keys to sustainable development and peace; Territorial, Multilevel Governance and Sustainable Financing;** and **Safer, Resilient and Sustainable Cities, Capable of Facing Crises.**

85. The UCLG Policy Councils are composed of up to 15 representatives with a political mandate, with various co-chairs. They are, as follows:

- a. **Right to the City and Inclusive Territories.** Co-chaired by **Ada Colau**, Mayor of Barcelona and Co-President of UCLG, and **Patrick Braouezec**, President of the Plaine Commune Metropolitan area, and Co-President of the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights.
- b. **Opportunities for All, Culture and City Diplomacy:** Keys to Sustainable Development and Peace. Co-chaired by **Jan van Zanen**, Mayor of Utrecht, and President of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities; **Eduardo Vázquez**, Secretary of Culture of Mexico City, and Co-Chair of the UCLG Committee on Culture; and **Juan Mari Aburto**, Mayor of Bilbao and Vice-President of the UCLG Committee on Culture.
- c. **Territorial, Multilevel Governance and Sustainable Financing.** Co-chaired by **Mercè Conesa Pagés**, President of the Barcelona Provincial Council; and **Mónica Fein**, Mayor of Rosario, and Vice-President of UCLG for Latin America.
- d. **Safer, Resilient and Sustainable Cities, Capable of Facing Crises.** Co-chaired by **Fatimetou Mint Abdel Malick**, President of the Nouakchott Regional Council and Vice-President of REFELA for the Northern Region; and **Roland Ries**, Mayor of Strasbourg, President of Cités Unies France, Co-President of UCLG ad Co-Chair of the UCLG Mobility Community of Practice.

86. Within the framework of the UCLG Executive Bureau in Strasbourg, the Policy Councils held dialogues between local governments' officials and ministers, with the aim of increasing political commitment on the challenges that local and regional spheres of government face. These dialogues represented a breakthrough towards a better understanding between spheres of government, and act as precursor of the conversations that took place within the High Level Political Forum.

Right to the City and Inclusive Territories

87. The Policy Council on the Right to the City addressed, fundamentally, the need for housing in cities and the challenges of migration, topics within our Waves of Action. Addressing the global narrative around migration, as well as the political crisis in

managing migration were among the more pressing needs, and it was agreed that a greater alliance between cities was necessary to orchestrate the voices of local and regional governments before the adoption of the Global Compact on Migration.

88. The Policy Council also saw the presentation of the **Barcelona Manifesto on Housing** -which would go on to become the Cities for Housing Declaration, and further presented during the High Level Political Forum- for discussion, as a key element which represented the work of both UCLG and its members, intrinsically linked to SDG 11.

Safer, Resilient and Sustainable Cities, Capable of Facing Crises

89. The dialogue on Safer, Resilient and Sustainable Cities was developed in the framework of the Talanoa Dialogues, a platform that aims at framing the conversations around climate change, and increase action among all stakeholders in order to reach the Paris Climate Goals. The dialogue approached designing policies to improve sustainability and resilience which effectively means designing cities prepared for the future.
90. Participants of the dialogue started by framing the concept of resilience and its relationship to all sectors of city planning, and further emphasized the need to develop resilience plan with a multidisciplinary approach that take into account all actors rather than developing sectoral plans.

Opportunities for All, Culture and City Diplomacy

91. The Policy Council of Opportunities for All, Culture and City Diplomacy focused on culture as an instigator for sustainability and social inclusion, and emphasized the importance of city diplomacy to achieve peace and solidarity.
92. Peace and city diplomacy were especially prevalent during the meeting of the Council, particularly due to the fact that the UCLG World Council would coincide with the World Forum on Urban Violence in Madrid. The Policy Council further announced that the opportunity offered by this coincidence would allow for developing a City Diplomacy and Peace Manifesto which could eventually serve as a reference for different parts of the network in regards to co-developing peace.

Territorial Multilevel Governance and Sustainable Financing

93. The UCLG Policy Council on Territorial Multilevel Governance and Sustainable Financing reminded of the necessity to align the priorities of all spheres of government with the SDGs and that multilevel governance and working towards developing a new model of governance is essential to achieve the global agendas.
94. The importance of dealing with tensions between spheres of government (including supramunicipal entities such as "intendences", in Latin American countries) and the local and national level were touched upon, with representatives from supramunicipal entities sharing experiences and expectations moving forward. Enhancing relations between spheres of government is a necessity, participants argued, if we are to transition from the current model of governance into one based on solidarity and not competences.

2018 Executive Bureau in Strasbourg

95. The city of Strasbourg hosted the first session of the UCLG Executive Bureau in the year 2018. Held in the European Parliament, it gathered over 300 local and regional delegates including over 70 political representatives, as well as more than 50 national government officials. International organizations such as UN-Habitat, the International Association of Public Transport and the Open Government Partnership, as well as representatives from the Council of Europe and CLGF were also present.

96. In line with our 2016-2022 Strategic Priorities, and building on our work towards enhancing and establishing partnerships –particularly with like-minded stakeholders- expressed during the Retreat, UCLG Signed a Global Strategic Partnership with the **International Association of Public Transport (UITP)**, to advance in the development of a mobility agenda. **A new era of UCLG-ICLEI relations was also announced**, which culminated in both the signature of a MoU and institutional presence from UCLG in the ICLEI Congress in Montréal on 20-22 June.
97. The meetings of the governing bodies of UCLG also included a dialogue between national and local governments, in the framework of **the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities** and the GTF, which aimed to pave the way towards the High Level Political Forum, which would for the first time hold a Local and Regional Governments' Forum.
98. Moving forward with the new Strategy on Localizing Finance, it was agreed to reintegrate the **Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV)** and build on its experience, and to count on the support of UNCDF, which would launch a local fund with UCLG. The Concrete proposals for the integration of FMDV within UCLG would further be discussed in the World Council in Madrid.

1st World Forum on Intermediary Cities

99. The UCLG Forum on Intermediary Cities is a consultation and policy mechanism that culminates in an event every two years. Led by the City of Chefchaouen, and with the support of a core group of pilot intermediary cities, it held its first edition precisely, in Chefchaouen during July of 2018.
100. Over 250 participants from 40 different countries, including actors from national and regional governments and representatives from different types of cities, worked to identify the challenges of intermediary cities and what strategies to use in order to implement the global goals in intermediary cities. A particular emphasis was devoted to the participation of women in the political sphere, and on developing participatory approaches when implementing the Goals.
101. The First World Forum on Intermediary Cities culminated with the adoption of the **Chefchaouen Declaration-Charter of the Intermediary Cities of the World**, where the representatives of intermediary cities declared the need to root the global development agendas in the experiences of intermediary cities, as well as to develop systems of multi-level governance and an integrated approach to the development of territories.
102. The local governments that signed the **Declaration-Charter of the Intermediary Cities of the World**, who committed to hold a second UCLG World Forum of Intermediary Cities, and declared that:
 - a. A more concrete multi-level dialogue as a regulatory system to define and implement the global agendas is needed
 - b. It is necessary to root the Global Development Agendas in the values and experiences of Intermediary Cities.
 - c. There is a need for a better structure and definition of the “living systems” of territories that can be translated into strategies that can be developed, understood and supported at international level.
 - d. It is essential to promote integrated models of governance that involve all spheres of government, including metropolitan governments and rural areas.
 - e. Acknowledging the role of intermediary cities as an important space of intermediation between the urban and rural is essential to the structuring and territorial organization of the economy,

- f. It is necessary to defend quality of life and access to basic services in their territories in order to reduce inequalities.
- g. The resilience of intermediary cities is strongly linked to their identity, culture and the defence of diversity.

Communication Campaigns and Strategies

103. Throughout 2018, the efforts in Communication have been directed to extend the outreach of our messages. Through communication campaigns we have been able to increase our presence in social media, and contribute towards disseminating the main messages of our constituency with over 5,000 new followers on Twitter, 800 new fans on Facebook and 70% new viewers on our YouTube channel, compared to the previous year.
- As of **October 2018** we count over 4,000 new followers on Twitter, 600 new fans on Facebook and 70% of new viewers on our YouTube channel, compared to the previous year.
104. Throughout the year, we have continued developing some of the campaigns that have been launched during previous years, such #BeCounted, which had been launched in New York during the previous year as a call to improve data on gender equality in local government in order to drive the achievement of Goal 5, and featured prominently during the European Development Days in June.
105. **#Listen2Cities**, launched during the previous year, was essential to gather momentum before and during the High Level Political Forum. The HLPF campaign allowed UCLG and the Global Taskforce to be more present than ever in the UN's social media flux. During the Local and Regional Governments' Forum, UCLG was the most visible account, and peaked at #3 during the HLPF. The campaign also managed to engage other accounts within the UCLG family -such as the GOLD team-, and allow them to reach a broader public.
106. The **#CitiesforHousing** campaign, designed to accompany the presentation of the Cities for Housing Manifesto was also present at the High Level Political Forum and beyond, particularly during the presentation of the Manifesto to highlight the demands of local and regional governments in regards to the right to housing.
107. UCLG joined the **#Act4SDGs** campaign, launched by the United Nations, meant to showcase what individual and collective actors are doing in order to raise awareness for the Global Goals, coinciding with the 3rd anniversary of their adoption on September 25. The Secretariat of UCLG contributed to the campaign by recording videos of members of UCLG and the staff commenting on how they contributed to the SDGs in their work or daily lives.

Publications

108. Ten publications were produced and/or disseminated throughout this year. These publications addressed: the role of UCLG in the achievement of the SDGs with "How UCLG Contributes to the SDGs", the 2nd Local and Regional Governments Report to the 2018 HLPF "National and sub-national governments on the way towards the localization of the SDGs; the Annual Report of 2017, the report of the 4th UCLG Annual Retreat; "Culture in the Sustainable Development Goals: A Guide for Local Action", together with UCLG's Culture 21 Committee; the SDG Mandala Tool to measure the global agenda in cities; and the joint publications the "Sustainable Cities Dialogue"; the "Welcoming Bologna" methodological toolkit; the "Mobility Champions" publication; and the "Start with Water" guide.
109. Part of the UCLG Strategy has been to publish in a range of newspapers and blogs in order to showcase our initiatives and publications. Members have collaborated with the publication and/or the dissemination of our articles in both written and online media throughout 2018.

110. In the framework of our campaign towards HLPF 2018, Secretary General Emilia Saiz published an article on the HLPF Blog, and a guest article was published on IISD on the IISD Knowledge Hub, focusing on the 2nd "Towards the Localization of the SDGs" report. An additional article was also published in Spanish paper El País commenting the outcomes and the expectations of the constituency after the HLPF.
111. An article titled "**World Urban Forum 9: A promise or a responsibility?**" was published on the Citiscope, as well as two op-eds for CIDOB; one which centred on the role of cities in the global agendas, and another focusing on the outcomes of the CIDOB Seminar "Rethinking the Ecosystem of International City Networks: Challenges and Opportunities".

Newsletters

112. Twelve monthly newsletters have been sent to the wide network of contacts. These newsletters included regular information and updates of interest for local and regional governments and collected information by the UCLG World Secretariat, Sections, Committees and Working Groups, and members.
113. Using specific campaign tools, several mass sendings have been sent to promote the #Act4SDGs campaign and the International Women's Day, and inform about our participation at the 9th World Urban Forum and the High Level Political Forum.

6. UCLG Committees and Working Groups

Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights

114. The Committee has facilitated and promoted the adoption of the **Declaration "Cities for Adequate Housing"** within the **wave of action on housing**. The Committee has provided an important link among signatory municipalities, **the UN human rights system and the Global Platform for the Right to the City**. It has also been present or taken part in the organization of several events on the right to housing, springing from local government meetings (Madrid, January and New-York, July), the United Nations (37th session Human Rights Council, March and The World Urban Forum, February) or civil society (Urbamonde and the Social Production of Habitat Platform, July).
115. In the same vein, its members have promoted **Human Rights and the Right to the City** in global and local government agendas, as well as in the framework of UCLG (playing a role in the organization of the **Policy Council on the Right to the City**). It has co-organized or taken part in international meetings for the Right to the City and Human Rights in Saint Denis, Gwangju, Madrid, Barcelona, Montevideo, Napoli, Montreal. Insofar as that the role of local governments in the **governance of migration** and the inclusion of migrants played a central role in many of these meetings, the Committee has also provided valuable inputs to the **wave of action on migration**. The Committee has been involved and further supported UCLG **communication and advocacy** strategies throughout the year.
116. Its Secretariat has contacted the 400 signatory municipalities of the **European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City** and provided a follow-up on its implementation 20 years after its adoption. It has organized a **training event for civil society** on international mechanisms for the protection of human rights in partnership with UN OHCHR. Similarly, it has provided support to member-local government in the **diffusion and assessment of local initiatives** related to social inclusion, participatory democracy and human rights, taking advantage of the Committee's renovated website.

Committee on Culture

117. **The Committee on Culture** has witnessed the extraordinary success of **the third edition of its International Award “UCLG - Mexico City – Culture 21”**. The Award ceremonies were associated to an international seminar on ‘Cultural Rights and Peace in the City’ and the annual meeting of the UCLG Committee on Culture (18-20 October 2018).
118. This year has also seen the consolidation of the learning, capacity-building and networking programmes which rely on the “Culture 21 Actions” toolkit, (Leading Cities, Pilot Cities and Culture 21 Lab).
119. The Committee on Culture has also contributed to the dissemination of knowledge within the Network with the publication of the document **“Culture in the SDGs. A Guide for Local Action”**, as well as with the launch of OBS, the committee’s dedicated website presenting more than **130 good practices**, searchable per 17 SDGs, the 9 Commitments of Culture 21 Actions and 70 keywords.

Committee on Urban Strategic Planning

120. 2018 has been a year where **the committee has further entrenched its position in the advocacy for Urban Strategic Planning**, and has had an enhanced role within the Learning Network. The Committee on Urban Planning has been actively involved in the development of learning material for the **Localization of the SDGs Toolkit**, which has been used to train trainers throughout the world
121. Members of the Urban Strategic Planning Committee advocated for the improvement of the planning knowledge of local governments, as well as for strengthening the global linkages between cities, existing networks and international institutions, in **fora such as the World Urban Forum, and the High Level Political Forum**, and through its presence at the **Expert Group Meeting hosted by UN-Habitat**.
122. The members of the Committee were critical in assisting cities on strategic planning by hosting **Master Classes in the city of Durban**, and through training sessions and classes hosted at the **World Urban Forum and the African Forum for Urban Safety**.

Committee on Local Economic and Social Development

123. 2018 has seen the drafting of both a **Strategy and a Work Plan for the 2018-2020** periods, as well as the constitution of a technical secretary, in partnership with the municipality of Seville.
124. The Committee on Local Economic and Social Development reinforced the role of local and regional governments on local economic development by positioning the organization within **the debates of the World Forum on Local Economic Development**, as well as by holding political debates in Strasbourg, Chefchaouen, Madrid, Marrakech and Quito.
125. The Committee has further hosted Learning Workshops in Seville, Marrakech, Chefchaouen, Quito and Huelva.

Capacity and Institution Building Working Group

126. The Capacity and Institution Building (CIB) Working Group conducted a research how to organize external evaluations effectively. Also a study was conducted on the strategies of implementing the SDGs within CIB member organizations and in their international programmes.

127. Both studies were presented during the CIB meeting in Stockholm, in June, hosted by the three associations that are active in international cooperation: SALAR, ICLD and SKL International. The meeting also discussed how CIB members can support the involvement of local governments in national and international discussions on the SDGs, how to assist partner LGAs in the implementation of and reporting on the SDGs in the next year and how to align the different systems to monitor the progress on the SDGs.
128. The CIB Working Group will work in close cooperation with the UCLG World Secretariat on these issues. Various webinars have been organized and remain to be organized this year, among others on international programming in relation to gender equality, LED, disaster preparedness and the SDGs.

UCLG Working Group for Territorial Prevention and Management of Crises

129. During 2018, the UCLG ASPAC and UCLG Working Group for Territorial Prevention and Management of Crises launched **the first international call for solidarity in help of Indonesia to all UCLG members**, following the deadly earthquake that struck Indonesia's Sulawesi Island on Friday 28 September 2018 which triggered a tsunami. All promoted activities will be delivered to help the Indonesia cities to rehabilitate.
130. The Working Group Coordinated two studies that will be shared for discussion and approval through UCLG members in 2019: A **protocol of engagement between Local Authorities and Humanitarian Actors in Urban Crisis and a UCLG Policy Paper on the role of Local and Regional Authorities on the prevention and response to a crisis**; and co-organized 2 working sessions on "cities in Crises", in partnership with UN-Habitat and the Global Alliance for Urban Crises during the High Level Political Forum.
131. Participated at the UCLG peer learning seminar during UCLG ASPAC congress "Building a Local Government Alliance for Localising the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in the Asia-Pacific Region" and contributed to the UCLG Peer Learning note by drafting a global approach for resilient cities.
132. The Working Group also **co-organized a Global Alliance for Urban Crises seminar in the Lebanon** that brought together representatives of local governments, academics, development specialists, humanitarian practitioners in a series of structured consultations. This consultation provided the opportunity for participants to foster peer-to-peer exchange among humanitarian, development, academic and local authority representatives engaged in urban crises, and contribute to the knowledge products currently being produced by the Global Alliance.

LONG-TERM IMPACTS
MID-TERM IMPACTS
OUTCOMES 2015-2021
OUTPUTS 2018
ENHANCED ACTIVITIES 2018 (complementary to Core Actions)

REDUCTION AND, IN THE LONG TERM, ERADICATION OF POVERTY
ACHIEVEMENT OF INCLUSIVE DEMOCRACY (ERADICATION OF IGNORANCE, INTOLERANCE & DISCRIMINATION), BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS (INCL. SECURITY)
SUSTAINABLE INCLUSIVE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

- Local public management consistent with high ethical standards: participation, multi-partner governance, transparent and accountable service delivery at local level

- LRG movement able to voice and defend the interests of the constituency

- Decentralization and the principle of subsidiarity are included as intrinsic levers in the 2030 Agenda, in New Urban Agenda & in EC development policies
- Implementation of the Global Development Agenda of LRGs for the 21st Century

LOCAL AND REGIONAL SELF-GOVERNANCE WITH INCREASED INFLUENCE ON GLOBAL GOVERNANCE GUIDED BY THE PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABILITY AND SOLIDARITY

- LRGs speak with amplified & informed voice on the global stage
- LRGs position priorities included into global agendas and policies
- Permanent seat at global table
- Structural global Dialogue between national & subnational governments (multilevel governance) fostered

INFLUENCE ON GLOBAL AGENDAS & POLICIES

- UCLG effectively acts as an experience-based learning network of networks
- Environment of cooperation based on solidarity and shared values
- Increased members' capacities and know how to answer to the needs of the communities they represent

LEARNING

- Accountable and inclusive governance at all levels of the organization
- A strong and coherent network with political participation
- Empowered policy consultation mechanisms and secretariats
- Informed membership with enhanced ownership

STRENGTHENING UCLG NETWORK

- Increased effort of UCLG members to link their daily practice to global agenda objectives

IMPLEMENTATION

- Consolidation of the representation capacity of the WALRG, convened by the GTF as political mechanism of the LRG constituency
- Development of a process to obtain a new place for LRG constituency in the global governance architecture
- GTF consolidated as technical consultation mechanism and policy exchange lab of the LRG networks
- Ensuring the development of joint positions and feedback in the follow up and monitoring of the global development agendas
- LRG policy proposals of importance for the achievement of global development agendas
- Well informed members on national and regional positions related to international policies
- Enhancing the specific regional inputs to global policy in collaboration with Sections

ADVOCACY

- A robust monitoring & reporting mechanism to follow implementation of global development agendas from a LRG perspective with inputs from Sections (feeding into GOLD)
- Documented cases and mapping of LRG contributions to global agendas implementation
- Intermediary publications to be presented at international monitoring mechanisms i.e. HLPF
- Consultations for the production of GOLD V with inputs from Sections

MONITORING & FOLLOW UP

- Development of a learning strategy and learning sessions and training of trainers on localization
- Consolidation of the UCLG Learning Forum
- Learning sessions on specific SDGs and relevant policies based on members' demands with inputs from Sections
- Strengthened capacity of LRAs' networks to address capacity building demands and to provide inputs to the global learning strategy
- Continuation and consolidation of the decentralized cooperation systems and peer to peer review promoted by the network at all levels

LEARNING

- Active and representative Policy Councils
- Enhanced policy proposals with inputs from Committees, Fora and Sections
- Renewed thematic participation mechanisms through Communities of Practice
- Enhancing inputs from UCLG membership in global operations through UCLG Permanent Working Groups
- Support institutional development of Sections
- Renewed communication, knowledge management and social media mechanisms
- Visualized synchronization and synergies of actions across the network through UCLG Waves of Action
- Enhanced synergies among ALAs signatories of FPA
- Consolidated UCLG Retreats (including Regional Retreats)

STRENGTHENING UCLG NETWORK

Enhanced Actions:

- Provide analyses, thematic papers and concrete proposals for the implementation of the global development agendas.
- Develop briefings and support the participation of UCLG Regional Sections and membership in regional forums.
- Support local government associations (LGAs) to participate in national dialogues for the localization of the global development agendas
- Promote debates on the topics of EU development policies in UCLG governing bodies, including the World Urban Forum (WUF).
- Ensure representation of local and regional governments in relevant international processes such as the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC), particularly supporting the Global Partner Initiative 14 – GPI 14-
- Organize a dialogue with civil society representatives around the topic of implementation of the global development agendas.
- Involve civil society, academia and other stakeholders in the process of implementation of these agendas, to share responsibility and ensure a large partnership and consensus
- Coordinate a LG Session at the 2018 HLPF

ADVOCACY

Enhanced Actions:

- Organize consultations to promote a broader debate at all levels on key issues relevant to the involvement of local and regional governments in the Monitoring "follow-up and review" implementation process of the global development agendas. Systematic analysis of the impact of the global agendas' implementation on national and subnational political processes. It would emphasize the link between national policies, sub-national governance and the challenges of global policy localization. The core analysis would complement (or critique, whenever necessary) the central governments' voluntary national reviews, studying them in particular through the lenses of sub-national governments.
- Analyse key dimensions of relevant SDGs and global goals and provide an assessment of localization. This process should be closely linked to the initiatives – in learning, advocacy and communication – undertaken by UCLG to support LRGs in global goal implementation.
- Ensure a yearly report to contribute to the global reporting including the High Level Political Forum reporting process. Enhance the GOLD online platform with new tools and capacities.
- Support UCLG Sections to develop mechanisms for dialogue between different spheres of government for the implementation, reporting and monitoring of the global development agendas.

MONITORING & FOLLOW UP

Enhanced Actions:

- Carry out research on the learning resources of local governments worldwide.
- Document city learning methodologies and guides/toolkits.
- Offer and partner on thematic peer learning opportunities that enable the transfer of knowledge
- Document lessons learnt and practices according to their transferability
- Promote bottom-up dialogues on learning and South-South and triangular cooperation in regional events held by Regional Sections, members and partners (Sections calendar, FALP, Asian summit).
- Hold regular practitioner workshops with networks in order to contribute to the establishment of a learning network (Learning Forum).
- Strengthen decentralized and city to city cooperation initiatives to support the localization of the global development agendas.
- Articulate learning and capacity building with key partner agencies and networks
- Connect the Corporate Partners Programme to the Learning Agenda.

LEARNING

Enhanced Actions:

- Creation of UCLG Policy Councils.
- Enhancing the UCLG Retreat, gathering staff from Sections in order to develop joint activity plans, including the communication strategy.
- Develop a "Seek-Sense and Share" knowledge management tool, building on the online UCLG Network Hub
- Develop *Waves of Action* (synchronized implementation) on specific topics.
- Organize specialized UCLG-wide staff training to develop expertise in the application of new tools and platforms to day to day work.
- Support Sections to organize regional meetings with high-level representatives from different sub-national authorities of the region, as well as regional LRA networks, to define regional priorities.
- Support Sections to develop activities proposals embedded in UCLG strategy paying special attention to regional needs.
- Strengthen the regional government agenda.
- Enhance monitoring mechanisms for the implementation of the work plan and strategy.

UCLG NETWORK, LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

POLICY & NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK:

International commitments (MDGs, etc.), EU Treaties & Conventions, EU/EC general and thematic relevant normative documents (Council Conclusions, Regulations, COMs, etc.), Other EU policies, EC bilateral and regional agreements, UE's other initiatives (Policy Forum on Development), Local and Regional Governments (LRGs) relevant policies & strategies; UCLG's Multiannual Strategy 2010-2016, UCLG's Manifesto on the City – 2030; Other donor policies & interventions

Item 4
✓ For adoption

2019 WORK PLAN

Summary and recommendations

Throughout 2018 UCLG has sought to enhance the advocacy work on behalf of local and regional governments internationally, adapting to the new global context by focusing on the localization of the global development agenda. Building on the successful international mobilization in 2018 at the High-Level Political Forum, Urban 20 and the California Climate Summit, 2019 will try to bring the voices and visions of the constituency to the next level.

In line with UCLG's strategic priorities and within the context of our partnership with the European Union, the 2019 work plan is built around the following axes:

- a) Consolidate the international spaces for dialogue that our advocacy efforts have led to, such as the Local and Regional Governments Forum within the High-Level Political Forum at the United Nations. This work will be developed through increased dialogue with national governments, both with missions before the UN and regional mechanisms, and at national level through UCLG's member Local Government Associations.
- b) Document the local perspective in the achievement of the international agendas by providing local experiences and views.
- c) Facilitate learning, decentralized cooperation and exchange among local governments.
- d) Identify and highlight successful implementation efforts at local level.

With the UCLG World Congress as a critical milestone of our movement, special efforts will be made to enhance the overall strategic thinking in the World Organization by increasing the in-depth debate through the Policy Councils and fostering active exchange among members in Committees, Fora and Communities of Practice.

Enhanced global dialogues with the private sector and civil society will be given priority as we work towards the 2019 Congress, which needs to become a beacon of the promotion of local democracy and the rallying point for the achievement of SDG 11.

UCLG will need to reach the renewal of its leadership for the period 2019-2022 in Durban with solid institutional rules, good governance procedures, an all-UCLG gender strategy and renewed policies on migration, housing, ecological transition and city diplomacy, all backed up by strong consultation mechanisms and streamlined regional priorities.

2019 will be the year of policy dialogue and interaction among UCLG members and partners that will allow us to develop a UCLG-backed vision for the urban future with strong mobilization of the membership and differentiated roles for the different parts of the network.

This document provides an overview of activities envisaged, which will be fine-tuned and further developed during the 2019 UCLG Retreat.

The World Council is invited to:

1. **Adopt** the 2019 work plan enclosed in annex 1.

Item 4 – Annex 1

2019 WORK PLAN

1. Implementation

UCLG will foster, identify and highlight successful efforts by the UCLG membership to achieve the global agendas at local and territorial level.

1.1. Supporting members to deliver their implementation initiatives

CORE ACTION:

- Foster the establishment of a system of decentralized cooperation programmes to facilitate the **exchange of experiences on how to achieve the SDGs, the New Urban Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework**.
- Develop demand-driven learning towards the localization of SDGs, supporting implementation.
- **Raise awareness** of the global goals among local and regional governments so that they can localize them.
- Implement the initiative of the **Global Compact of Mayors**.

2. Advocacy

We will continue striving for higher visibility for local and regional governments internationally. A consolidated Global Taskforce and an acknowledged World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments, facilitated by UCLG with the active participation of other local and regional government networks, seeking recognition as the joint representation mechanism for the constituency. We will continue to make proposals concerning the role and perspective of local governments on the further definition of the next phase of the global development agenda.

2.1. Partnerships with the international community

2.1.1 Relations with the United Nations and the European Union

CORE ACTION:

- Influence the Governance and Partnership structure of UN-Habitat in order for local and regional governments to have a strong role in the implementation of Habitat III.
- Continue the implementation of the renewed **MoU with UN-Habitat**.
- Develop an agreement with **UNICEF** on enhancing the protection of children's rights.
- Consolidate the **Forum of Local and Regional Governments** at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (**HLPF**).
- Continue to promote a **high-level dialogue with the European Commission (EC)**: develop the high-level segment established within the Policy Forum on Development (PFD) in partnership with the other partner associations of local authorities (ALAs), to encourage the involvement of elected representatives of local and regional governments (LRGs) in a policy dialogue with the EC, EU and Member State representatives. Main focus during the next year: 1) promote an enabling environment for local authorities and civil society organizations (CSOs) for the implementation of the SDGs and within the implementation of the provisions of the new European Consensus on Development; 2) the future of the partnership between the EU and African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries.
- Continue the implementation of the **MoU with the ILO**.
- Strengthen the **collaboration** with the **IOM** towards the implementation of the Global Compact on Migration.
- Implement the roadmap agreed with the United Nations Capital Development Fund (**UNCDF**) **in order to achieve the UCLG Strategy on Municipal Financing**.
- Continue collaboration with UNDP and their initiative UNDP ART on the LED Forum in partnership with the UCLG Committee on LESD.

ENHANCED ACTION:

- Consolidate the **multi-stakeholder partnership for local action on SDG implementation**, “Local 2030”, by the United Nations Secretary General’s Executive Office, building on the initiative “**Localizing the SDGs**”.
- **Develop briefings and support the participation** of the Regional Sections and membership to influence regional fora.
- **Create training opportunities for staff of UCLG Sections** and regional leaders on the process of strategic dialogue with the EC to ensure greater involvement and follow-up (linked with Secretariats Retreats).
- **Enhance presence** at the **United Nations Headquarters** in New York.
- Enhance the dialogue with civil society groups, in particular the International Union on Public Service, the Global Platform for the Right to the City and the General Assembly of Partners, gathering Habitat stakeholders
- Promote debates on the topics of the EU development policies and global agenda in UCLG Governing Bodies.
- Strengthen the involvement of local and regional governments in the implementation and follow-up of **National Urban Policies**, promoted by UN-Habitat, in partnership with the OECD and Cities Alliance.

2.1.2 Dialogue with key development partners

CORE ACTION:

- Consolidate a partnership with the **Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)**.
- Continue the implementation of the **MoU with the OECD** to improve structural collaboration.
- Continue the implementation of the **MoU with AFD** and collaboration with **MAE-France**.
- Continue collaboration with **DeLog** in the framework of the process of localization and implementation of the SDGs.
- Continue the implementation of the agreement with the **International Union of Public Transport** to develop innovative policies on mobility that will contribute to social inclusion and the ecological transition.
- **Develop an agreement with International IDEA** on the state of local democracy.
- Further develop the UCLG corporate partnership programme.

ENHANCED ACTION:

- **Renew relations with the World Bank** in view of the implementation of the SDGs and the related financial mechanisms to be developed.
- **Consolidate the International Coalition on Municipal Finance**.
- Establish a Global Partnership on Localizing Financing.
- **Implement actions on the right to housing in partnership with the Right to the City, Slum Dwellers International and Habitat for Humanity International.**
- **Discuss the UCLG Gender Strategy development with the women’s movement.**

2.2. Representation and advocacy

CORE ACTION:

- Consolidate the **Global Taskforce (GTF)** of LRGs as the constituency’s technical consultation mechanism.
- Consolidate the **World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments** as the political voice for deliberations with the UN on the follow-up and review of the New Urban Agenda.
- Continue revitalizing the **United Nations Advisory Committee for Local Authorities (UNACLA)**.
- Represent local governments in the **Cities Alliance Governing Structure**.

ENHANCED ACTION:

- Foster the mobilization of the constituency for the 2019 HLPF.
- Foster the mobilization of the constituency for the UN Secretary General’s Climate Summit in 2019.
- Mobilize local governments for the Governing Council of UN-Habitat.
- Organize regular dialogues with national missions before the UN.
- Actively contribute to the implementation of the Global Compact of Migration at local level.
- Continue providing inputs to the **General Assembly of Partners** for Habitat III.
- Put in place **policy dialogues** with other constituencies, as well as with key actors in the international community.
- **Facilitate regular meetings and communication between GTF members**; including support for attendance.
- Develop a **dedicated newsletter** and briefing materials on the above-mentioned summits.
- Develop messaging and **awareness campaign strategies**.
- Ensure **links between the GTF and the PFD**, in collaboration with the AIMF, CEMR and PLATFORMA, CLGF and UCLG Africa.
- Participation of specific **UCLG Sections at key international events**.
- Support **publications on policy positions by specific UCLG Sections**.

- Organize and strengthen a dialogue on several topics with national governments, where possible and on the occasion of our statutory meetings or other fora, in coordination with the Regional Sections and national associations.
- Strengthen the role of the UCLG Permanent Working Group on the Territorial Prevention and Management of Crises in the Global Alliance on Urban Crises (GAUC).

3. Monitoring and reporting

UCLG will develop a robust monitoring and reporting mechanism on the implementation of the global development agendas, supported by our flagship publication, the GOLD Report. Following the successful presentation of a primary analysis of the presence of local governments in National Voluntary Reports, we will continue to produce a full-fledged report on the action of local governments in localization; the GOLD V Report. We will contribute to local and regional governments' storytelling, informing the reporting by national governments and other stakeholders. We will strive to ensure that local experiences influence the actual implementation and assessment of the agenda.

3.1. Showcasing the contribution of local and regional governments to the SDGs

CORE ACTION:

- Co-organize **thematic dialogues** on the priorities identified by the Executive Bureau.
- Contribute to the development of **academic and experts' inputs to the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments**.
- Setting up the **UCLG-UBUNTU Advisory Panel**, gathering experts and institutional partners to help develop intelligence and a forward thinking agenda.

ENHANCED ACTION:

- Continue consultations with task teams of local leaders from different regions, with the support of UCLG policy development and consultation mechanisms and experts, to follow up implementation.
- Organize consultations to promote a broad debate at all levels on key issues relevant to the agenda of LRGs.
- First in-person meeting of the UCLG-UBUNTU Advisory Panel.

3.2. Global Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralization

CORE ACTION:

- Drafting and consultations with members of the constituency, partners and experts towards the development of the **fifth GOLD Report** on the "Localization of the SDGs and other Global Goals".
- Production of the **Local and Regional Governments' third Report to the 2019 HLPF**, with a focus on inclusive societies.
- Develop the monitoring component of the **UCLG Localization Hub** with SIDA support.
- Consolidate the **World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment in partnership with the OECD and UNCDF** to review the effectiveness of fiscal decentralization processes; and encourage the production of reliable public data on sub-national finance.

ENHANCED ACTION:

- Collect case studies and evidence-based practices through the **GOLD Report** and **2019 HLPF Report** to support the follow-up of the implementation of the SDGs and other global agendas at sub-national level.
- Gather academic expertise at regional level to map SDG implementation and the 'enabling environment' for the localization of the SDGs, as contributions to the GOLD report.
- Organize **an international experts seminar to peer review preliminary research results**.
- Support the Permanent Working Group on Capacity and Institution Building and UCLG Sections to gather information on local government association consultations on the implementation of the SDGs.
- Enhance the **GOLD online platform** with new tools and capacities, as part of the UCLG Local4Action Hub.
- Ensure regular updates of the **country profiles** (qualitative and quantitative data) on the localization of SDGs, decentralization, and develop a network of focal points on sub-national finances, in collaboration with the Sections to contribute to the **World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment in partnership with the OECD and UNCDF**.
- Support specific **UCLG Sections' research work on enabling environments for sustainable urbanization**.

4. Learning

UCLG will consolidate itself as a learning network through two main axes: the training of trainers and facilitating peer-to-peer learning experiences. Building on members' experience and mechanisms, UCLG will focus on the upscaling of the lessons learned and enhancing the learning methodologies, as well as renewed partnerships building on decentralized cooperation and peer-to-peer learning.

4.1 Promote decentralized cooperation

CORE ACTION:

- Support localization efforts through the development of a UCLG Training of Trainers system, among other learning tools.
- Support UCLG Sections (in particular ASPAC, Metropolis, Eurasia, MEWA and Latin America) to assess **capacity demands within regions and associations**.
- Support the establishment of city **networks and foster solidarity**.
- Foster **decentralized cooperation** initiatives among members.
- Promote city-to-city and peer learning and cooperation in international events.

ENHANCED ACTION:

- Ensure that visions of **the global south are present in the definition of the learning agenda**.
- Contribute to the enhancement of the activity of the Capacity and Institution Building Working Group (**CIB**) to reflect and share knowledge on capacity building with greater Southern participation.
- Improve communication and exchange between all committees, working groups and communities of practice: e.g., via integrated and joint planning, financing localization, and initiatives and knowledge exchange on adequate and accessible housing policies.
- Engage **national associations of local governments** in **peer-to-peer learning activities**, so as to develop adequate capacities for them and their members to be fully involved in the **reporting process** on SDG implementation.
- Develop City Labs for innovation and exchange.

4.2 The learning agenda

CORE ACTION:

- Enhance **learning opportunities**. Connect to existing initiatives of members and networks, and **facilitate connections** between members and networks themselves (Sections, Committees, Fora, Working Groups, Communities of Practice and partners).
- Foster debates and cooperation for learning between **donors, experts and practitioners** around certain topics.
- Continue the South-South learning partnership supported by the ILO (Latin America, Asia and Africa).
- Peer learning on migration in Mediterranean project cities to build evidence for policy inputs.

ENHANCED ACTION:

- Support **Training of Trainers** and **peer-to-peer learning events** around the world to contribute to the implementation of the SDGs and the NUA.
- Support the development of **training modules and tools** on the SDGs and global agendas, based on members' practices and knowledge, to contribute to the implementation of the SDGs and the NUA.
- Implement and promote **tools and methodologies** of learning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation used in development cooperation programmes with the CIB Working Group.
- Facilitate and **document city learning** methodologies and practices, and make them available to knowledge platforms.
- Develop online training in order to scale up the UCLG Learning Activities.
- Develop training modules on the localization of the SDGs.
- Develop partnerships with academia, universities and other learning institutions, improving their collaboration frameworks with cities and associations, for instance through the joint development of learning labs.
- Transforming UCLG policy and research into training materials.
- Support and involve members of UCLG Sections, Committees, Communities of Practice, Working Groups and Fora in learning activities.
- Organize **learning events for specific UCLG Sections on SDG localization**, fostering a bottom-up approach to peer-to-peer activities with the members.

5. Strengthening the network, leadership and governance

In 2019, UCLG will renew its political leadership and consolidate the mechanisms for active political participation and policy debates. It will develop its cohesion strategies to enhance the capacity to act as a network and the links between its different parts, including

reinforced Secretariats at global, regional and thematic levels. The organization will further develop all UCLG strategies and tools that will improve its transparency, democratic participation and accountability.

5.1 Knowledge management

CORE ACTION:

- Put in motion the online gateway as part of the **UCLG Local4Action Hub**.
- Organize the UCLG 2019 Congress and Local and Regional Government Summit in Durban.
- Continue implementing a **robust knowledge strategy** aiming to strengthen UCLG's capacities to monitor the evolution of networks and assess members' needs and requests.
- Capitalize on the **knowledge** gathered across the different parts of the network, in particular through the international awards, by making it available to the membership.
- Develop a **renewed membership strategy**.
- Enhance **networking options** among members.

ENHANCED ACTION:

- Dedicate the Annual Retreat to synergy development for action across the whole of UCLG.
- Create multidisciplinary mechanisms that will enhance the synergies between policy, learning and research.
- Organize a **knowledge exchange campus** involving UCLG consultations mechanisms.
- Support and align **knowledge tools, observatories and platforms**, and promote the use of city practices.

5.2 Relations with statutory bodies and members

CORE ACTION:

- Organize the World Congress and Summit 2019.
- Implement the electoral process 2019 for the renewal of the governing bodies.
- Enhance the **representation and operational capacity** of all parts of the network, in particular **UCLG Sections**: develop agreements with Sections.
- Briefings for the **Presidency**.
- Organization of UCLG **statutory meetings**.
- Facilitate the **UCLG Policy Councils**.
- **Facilitate the implementation** of the multi-annual strategy.

ENHANCED ACTION:

- Develop an All-UCLG Gender Strategy.
- Develop a UCLG Ethical Code of Conduct.
- Organize information activities of the **Forum of Regions** in different regions, in collaboration with the UCLG Sections.
- Organize the **UCLG Secretariats Retreat**, gathering staff from Sections in order to develop joint activity plans, including the communication strategy. Special session on self-assessment.
- Organize **staff trainings** to develop expertise in the application of new tools and platforms in day-to-day work.
- Facilitate a **self-assessment exercise**, including for the UCLG Sections (in particular ASPAC, Eurasia and MEWA), to define a capacity-building action plan, focusing in particular on governance, representativeness and increased LRA participation.
- Coach the Sections to implement **accountability and audit systems**.
- Enhance **monitoring mechanisms** for the implementation of the work plan and strategy.
- Support the **UCLG Communities of Practice**.
- Support the development of the coordination mechanism in LATAM through **CORDIAL**.
- **Specialized staffers** in learning, administration, policy, research, reporting and communication in specific UCLG Sections.
- Organize **Regional Retreats** in specific UCLG Sections.
- Develop **online platforms** in specific UCLG Sections.
- **Staff internships on communication** in specific UCLG Sections.
- **Workshops on strategy** organized in specific UCLG Sections.
- Support specific UCLG Sections to participate in the **UCLG Annual Retreat**.

5.3 Policy Councils, Committees, Fora, Working Groups and Communities of Practice

CORE ACTION:

- **Renew the involvement** of political leaders through the work of the Policy Councils.
- Support the development of **policy recommendations** by Policy Councils.
- Support the **cross-cutting work** of the policy development and consultation mechanisms.

- Ensure **contributions** of the mechanisms in general policymaking.

ENHANCED ACTION:

- Facilitate **global dialogues** among the membership on expectations from the network, including exchanges on topics related to the Global Agenda and EU policy.
- Organize a two-day **Annual Networking Campus** for secretariats of the policy development and consultation mechanisms to jointly define their contributions to the World Organization.
- Co-organize the Peripheral Cities Forum.
- Co-organize the CEOs of Local Government Associations Forum.
- Support the work programme of UCLG Committees by ensuring regular exchanges with the World Secretariat and mobilizing membership.
- Support the work programme of permanent Working Groups by hosting specific meetings during the meetings of the UCLG governing bodies.
- Enhance information exchange on UCLG Communities of Practice and support the identification of international partners.
- Organize the LRG Forum in the Mediterranean and reinforce the relation with the Medcities network.
- Create and support the work of a Community of Practice on Migration to play a role in the implementation of the Global Compact on Migration (GCM).

5.4 Resource mobilization

CORE ACTION:

- Implement a **joint membership campaign**.
- Implement a **new membership-fee scale by region**.
- Continue to develop the **Corporate Partnership Programme**.
- Develop partnerships with **development agencies**.

6. Cross-cutting activities

In 2018, UCLG will develop cross-cutting activities that will involve action in, and tightening the links among, the five areas of the strategic priorities, namely: implementation, advocacy, monitoring and reporting, learning, and strengthening the network.

6.1 Waves of Action

CORE ACTION:

- Present the results of the Waves of Action on **housing, financing and migration** to trigger the multiplier effect of synchronizing thousands of local and regional actions at global level, by amplifying the work of members and partners.
- Develop new Waves on Local Democracy, Equality and Local Economic Development.

6.2 Communication

CORE ACTION:

- Continue to enhance the **reach of the network through social media**, as platforms for exchange and advocacy.
- Increase **partnerships using influential blogs** that deal with issues of relevance to UCLG's membership.
- Support the visibility of products and positions of different parts of the UCLG network.

ENHANCED ACTION:

- Enhance contributions to written media.
 - Staff exchanges among the World Secretariat and Sections.
 - Organize UCLG Communication Campuses.
 - Develop campaigns on localization and Local4action.
 - Develop the renewed brand for the UCLG Localization Hub.
 - Explore possibilities to develop a UCLG app that will provide access to specific information and alerts.
-

Item 5

✓ For information

AMPLIFYING THE VOICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AT THE GLOBAL TABLE

Summary and recommendations

Over the course of 2018, UCLG has continued its work on amplifying the voice of local governments at the global table and significant progress has been made in relation to the acknowledgment of the role that our constituency needs to play in the global development agenda, and in particular the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. This has become particularly visible during the High-Level Political Forum held in New York in July.

Our efforts to document and put the localization of the SDGs at the core of our work plan has strengthened our capacity to argue for a clearer more prominent space at the decision making table, both internationally and nationally.

This paper summarizes the work done and provides an overview of the way forward, building on consolidating current alliances around the Global Taskforce.

The World Council is invited to:

1. **Take note** of the progresses made;
2. **Mandate** the Secretariat to continue its work.

A strong articulated voice before the UN system

1. As presented in the 2016-2022 Strategy, UCLG's efforts to represent local and regional governments internationally continue to be focused on consolidating a unified voice of the constituency before the UN, aiming to secure a seat at the global decision-making table. The global agendas – the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and the New Urban Agenda in particular – offer an unprecedented opportunity for local and regional governments to achieve this aim.
2. Throughout the year, UCLG, as facilitator of the Global Taskforce, has contributed to consolidating a united voice for our constituency before the United Nations, using three main mechanisms: the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments; the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA), and the Local and Regional Governments' Forum at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).
3. The World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments is our follow-up mechanism of the New Urban Agenda, convened by the Global Taskforce. It was convened on the occasion of the 9th World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur, where over 250 local and regional leaders from around the world vindicated their role as guardians of the Habitat III agenda and as the actors best fit to monitor its implementation.

4. Dialogue with national governments made a leap forward in the framework of the UCLG Executive Bureau in Strasbourg, where UCLG co-organized a set of High-Level Dialogues between Mayors and Ministers with the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA), hosted by the UCLG Policy Councils. The special dialogue held by UNACLA, the Global Taskforce and UN-Habitat allowed to further define the links between the global goals and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, contributing to the HLPF's assessment of SDG11 through the report "Sustainable Cities Dialogue. Urban Governance at the Core of the Implementation of SDG 11".
5. As a central UN platform for the follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda, the HLPF is a vital space for local and regional governments to underline the role of strong local leadership and commitment in the achievement of the SDGs. The 2018 HLPF hosted the first edition of the **Local and Regional Governments' Forum** – a new special space for dialogue between the UN and the local and regional governments constituency that we are willing to secure for the next years.

#Listen2Cities: Amplifying the voice of local governments before the UN

6. Two axes of action will be instrumental to achieve the ultimate goal of having a rightful seat at the decision-making table where policies affecting the lives of local communities are defined. The first is to continue building a collective and orchestrated presence in all relevant processes, and the second is building alliances and trust with all stakeholders.
7. In order to consolidate and expand our presence at the international level, the UCLG World Secretariat will continue to liaise at the highest level of the UN to explore and secure mechanisms to enhance the role of local governments in the United Nations. This includes both consolidating the space of the Local and Regional Governments' Forum within the 2019 HLPF and facilitating the participation of the constituency in the Local 2030 network.
8. Increasing local and regional governments' presence in international policy processes will be linked to broadening our thematic scope to expand our range of partnerships and audience according to the priorities of the membership.
9. Furthermore, UCLG will need to develop a roadmap of national/local dialogues both at UN level and country level. The World Secretariat will focus on building relations with the national missions at the UN through a series of briefing sessions throughout 2019.

On the agenda for 2019

10. The **27th session of the Governing Council of UN Habitat will take place from 8 to 12 April 2019** at UN-Habitat's Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. It will be an important milestone for our constituency, being the first Governing Council of the new UN-Habitat Executive Director, Ms Maimunah Mohd Sharif, and the second Governing Council after the adoption of the New Urban Agenda in October 2016. Our advocacy strategy towards the Governing Council will focus on increasing national attention on local and regional governments' achievements and challenges in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. It will also signal the needs for closer interlinkages between the New Urban Agenda and SDG11.
11. The **Fourth UN Environment Assembly will take place in Nairobi from 11 to 15 March 2019**. The Environment Assembly, with main theme "Innovative solutions for environmental challenges and sustainable consumption and production" represents an opportunity for our constituency, through the Global Taskforce, to join forces on advocacy on ecological transition, beyond the issue of

climate change. UCLG has been approached to coordinate a Cities Summit on 13 March 2019, together with other sister organizations.

12. The content of next year's HLPF, as well as the thematic scope of our partnerships, will contribute to expand our reach to cover most Global Goals. The **2019 High-Level Political Forum** will mark the 4th year of implementation of the SDGs, with main theme "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality". It will address SDG 4 (Quality Education); 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth); 10 (Reduced Inequalities); 13 (Climate Action); 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), and 17 (Partnership for the Goals).
13. Marking the mid-term review of the Sustainable Development Goals 2019 will see the celebration of a General Assembly HLPF Summit attended by Heads of State. The World Secretariat proposes the Forum of Local and Regional Governments to take place on this occasion. A half-day session with high-level attendance is being explored.

Partnerships

14. Following the decision at the Executive Bureau in Strasbourg in May 2018 to further develop our partnership on Goals 11 and 16 with the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), the World Organization has been working on a first draft of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The MoU should contribute to the production of sound, evidence-based knowledge on local democracy. To this aim, UCLG and International IDEA will work together to set up an analytical framework on local democracy, which will allow to critically assess the state of local democracy and further develop international advocacy for democratic decentralization.
15. Our advocacy strategy on Goals 1 and 5 will include preliminary discussions with UNICEF, the main UN agency for children's assistance. Talks have been ongoing throughout the second part of the year, and aim to structure and formalize our global partnership to identify the critical links between local humanitarian and developmental assistance to children and mothers in developing countries, and especially to seek collaboration around child participation in local governance.
16. Our special partnership with UNISDR and IOM, detailed respectively in Item 7 and Item 4 of the papers of the Executive Bureau, will also deserve special attention in our advocacy strategy for next year.
17. We will continue to plea for an adequate role for local and regional governments in the implementation of Goal 17 through our permanent seat on the Steering Committee of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC). 2019 will be critical, with the first Senior High-Level Meeting on Effective Development Cooperation. So far, the local dimension of the monitoring phase has been rather weak. The next phase will be critical to ensure that national associations have a coordination role with national governments in the implementation of Goal 17.
18. In early 2017, the **Local 2030 Hub** was launched by the Office of the UN Secretary-General as a network bringing together local leaders and UN agencies. Main areas of interest of the initiative are data and monitoring (Goal 17); financing (idem); clean energy (Goal 7); poverty alleviation and inequalities (Goals 1 and 10); infrastructure (Goal 9), and oceans (Goal 14). UCLG will facilitate the participation of the local and regional governments constituency in the Local 2030 network, strengthening the relationship between local governments and the UN system, and catalyzing joint action between cities, national governments and international agencies.

Opportunities

19. Following the active participation of the UCLG Secretary General in the Urban Leaders Council of the New Climate Economy, UCLG will be actively contributing to the advocacy and research initiative focusing on how national governments can reboot their economies and make them climate-safe, especially in making sure that there is a real shift in national policies on devolution of powers and resources to local governments on climate.
20. At the same time, UCLG will continue to develop a roadmap with civil society to continue working on the values and visions shared in the Habitat III process beyond the text of the New Urban Agenda, rescuing the common Habitat III legacy, providing inputs within the Global Assembly of Partners.
21. In view of the above and mindful of the low visibility of the New Urban Agenda and SDG 11, UCLG is exploring the possibility to launch Global Alliance on SDG11. The aim is to increase support for the recognition and acknowledgement of local governments in the implementation of SDG11. For that, UCLG will seek to rally a diversity of stakeholders, including the UN custodian agency identified for the implementation of SDG 11 (UN-Habitat), national governments and other key international partners such as Cities Alliance. The Global Alliance should also aim to demonstrate the added value of the New Urban Agenda as an accelerator for the implementation of SDG 11.

Item 6

✓ For information

DOCUMENTING LOCAL ACTION FOR THE SDGs: THE UCLG GOLD REPORT

Summary and recommendations

The monitoring and follow-up of the “localization of the SDGs” is a part of UCLG’s strategic priorities for 2016-2022. To take up this challenge, for the last three years, UCLG’s Global Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralization (GOLD) has intensively followed the global process of assessment of SDG localization, providing insight from the perspective of local and regional governments (LRGs) thanks to a unique set of resources, first-hand information and inclusive dialogue with UCLG members and sections.

As part of the same process, UCLG has also laid the groundwork for the next Global Report on Local Democracy and Decentralization, GOLD V, which will analyze the localization of the global agendas in depth and will be published in 2019. The report will be produced at the same time in which the UN will publish its 1st Quadrennial Global Report on Sustainable Development, which will draw key conclusions and findings on the first four years of SDG implementation worldwide.

GOLD is also developing a report on the Right to Housing, its contribution to UCLG’s Wave of Action on the Right to Housing. Finally, GOLD has worked in close collaboration with our sections and partners to support the World Observatory on Subnational Governments’ Finance and Investment.

This paper presents the main results of the monitoring and reporting activities of GOLD, in particular the findings and reception of its latest report to the 2018 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF): *Towards the Localization of the SDGs*. This paper also reports on the ongoing research process behind the GOLD V report, with an urgent call – open to all members, sections, committees and partners of UCLG – for even more data, information, good practices, stories and case studies of localization worldwide.

The World Council is invited to:

1. **Take note** of the progress made in the reporting process;
2. **Participate in the process of monitoring and reporting on SDG localization** by sharing policies and experiences at the local level;
3. **Support the active participation of local and regional governments in the Voluntary National Reviews** submitted to the 2019 HLPF;
4. **Contribute to the Observatory on Subnational Governments’ Finance and Investment**, by identifying a focal point in cities and associations and participating in the global strategy for localizing financing.

UCLG leading the reporting process on the localization of the SDGs

1. The Global Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralization (GOLD) has a clear mandate to monitor, research and report on the process of implementation of the global agendas – the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, the New Urban Agenda (NUA), the

Paris Climate Agreements, the Sendai Risk Reduction Framework and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) – from the perspective of local and regional governments (LRGs).

2. It is providing key information on initiatives and policies put into practice by UCLG members and partners as part of the localization process. It also serves as a catalyst for further awareness-raising, mobilization of human and financial resources, and engagement for the whole LRG community. Several associations have used the information shared by UCLG to strengthen dialogue with national governments in the framework of the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and improve the involvement of local and regional governments in the high-level national committees for SDG-related coordination and strategizing (e.g., Spain, Mali).
3. UCLG's strategy to approach these goals has been fourfold. GOLD will dedicate its fifth Global Report, GOLD V, to the localization of the SDGs and the global agendas. GOLD has engaged in the global process of reporting on SDG implementation at the HLPF, with yearly reports on the initiatives and participation of LRGs in the process. GOLD will pay specific attention to the issue of decent and accessible housing – in line with UCLG's global commitment to the Right to Housing – with a special report on the implementation of SDG 11.1. Finally, GOLD supports the World Observatory on Subnational Governments' Finance and Investment, collecting key data that contributes to the follow-up of decentralization processes and the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development.

Reporting to the HLPF: the '*Towards the Localization of the SDGs*' report

Improve our membership's commitment to the localization process

4. The 2018 report on the localization of the SDGs, presented at the High-Level Political Forum in New York (July 2018), shows that a growing degree of awareness and mobilization is spreading rapidly across all regions of the world. The report was launched during the first Local and Regional Governments' Forum, coordinated by the Global Taskforce (GTF). It is a testament to the increasing centrality of local and regional governments in the debate about the implementation of the goals.
5. Combined with the research effort of 2017, the two reports have enabled UCLG and the GTF to draw an increasingly precise world map of localization. **The reports now cover a total of 99 countries from all regions of the world**, those that have reported to the HLPF in the 2016-2018 assessment. The reports aim to complete and improve the information that UN member states already provide to the HLPF via their Voluntary National Reviews.
6. In order to do so, UCLG has engaged its membership since the beginning of the monitoring process via a tailored survey strategy, with the collaboration of UCLG Sections (e.g., CEMR/PLATFORMA, which developed a survey for European members) and working groups (e.g., CIB, which helped mobilize several LGAs). Over the past two years, **GOLD has received 101 replies from 61 different countries**.
7. The two reports combined, moreover, offer an in-depth assessment of the SDGs assessed so far at the HLPF, providing information from the bottom up on how SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 17 have been implemented across levels of governance. The analysis of Goal 11 was particularly popular among the stories, examples and case studies proposed by the local and regional governments that participated in the reporting process. **Both reports together collect over 150 examples and practices of localization**.

A stronger involvement of LRGs is still needed

8. Notwithstanding, LRG mobilization is limited to a group of ‘front-running’ local leaders and national associations. Key findings show that, in **Africa**, local governments in countries such as South Africa, Benin, and Togo have shown the largest margin of improvement and activity. Botswana, Cape Verde, Morocco, Sierra Leone and Uganda are progressing, especially via on-the-ground pilot projects of localization (as well as Kenya and Nigeria at the federated state/county level). In **Asia-Pacific**, the local and regional governments of Australia, Indonesia, the Republic of Korea and Japan have been among the most advanced countries in the localization of the goals. In Japan, most interestingly, three cities have jointly developed the first examples of Voluntary *Local Reviews* (or VLRs), a genuinely localized response to the states’ VNRs. Several other Asian countries have further advanced in aligning national plans and local strategies with the SDGs – e.g., China, Nepal, the Philippines and Vietnam.
9. In **Europe**, the region where localization processes appear to have advanced the most, progress has been most notable in Northern, Central and Western European countries, whereas East and South-East Europe still lag significantly behind. In **Latin America**, Brazil, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Colombia showed the most promising progress, followed closely by Ecuador, Peru and Uruguay. Larger cities or federated states still dominate the debate in Argentina and Mexico. In **North America**, the city of New York took the opportunity to host the HLPF to present their own VLR at the event – a testament to the commitment of many LRGs and their associations in Canada and the United States. **Eurasia** and **MEWA** show a more complicated path towards an effective localization: Turkey reported several initiatives within this framework, but top-down approaches with strong centralization are still prevailing in most Eurasian countries.

The way forward: key recommendations from and for Local and Regional Governments

10. The presentation of the localization report to the 2018 HLPF allowed subnational governments to put forward a series of strong political recommendations:
 - **Strengthen awareness, policy commitment and ownership** among local and regional governments and their involvement at all stages of the localization process. More initiatives are needed to adequately inform and mobilize LRGs in all the regions;
 - **Support the role and involvement of LRGs in the VNR process**, and in the institutional coordination and follow-up mechanisms in each country. We call UCLG members to develop concrete actions in support of local and regional governments, especially in the 51 countries that will report to the HLPF in 2019;
 - **Ensure the active participation of local and regional governments in the Local and Regional Governments’ Forum at the HLPF**, as well as in the **Regional Forums for Sustainable Development** organized by the UN’s Regional Commissions. UCLG and its sections should be present and guarantee that our voices are united and loud at all global milestone events.
11. To achieve these objectives, UCLG will strengthen its training efforts and will contribute to:
 - the development of tools for local and regional governments’ self-assessment of SDG strategic alignment;
 - promote decentralized cooperation and peer-to-peer exchange of tools and knowledge to support the localization of the global agenda;
 - explore how to contribute to data-collection capacities for truly localized indicators;

- collect constructive examples of awareness-raising initiatives by local and regional governments, including Voluntary Local Reviews, as a way to contribute to the global monitoring process.
12. **Key action:** it is important that LGAs and UCLG Sections and partners mobilize their members to participate in the **Voluntary National Review process in 2019**.¹ As in previous years, by **March 2019**, UCLG will prepare and disseminate a **new Survey on the Localization of the SDGs** to collect first-hand information from UCLG members and national and regional LRG associations, in order to assess their involvement and participation in the reporting process, both nationally and globally.

The next challenges: the GOLD V Report on the Localization of the SDGs

13. The next GOLD V Report will explore the role that local and regional governments play in the localization of the global agendas. It will be the baseline for the next report to the 2019 HLPF, to the 1st UN Summit on the SDGs (September 2019, where the first UN Quadrennial Report on implementation will also be presented), and will be launched at UCLG's next World Congress in Durban, in November 2019. The GOLD V Report will present new data and first-hand information and case studies, and update the global analysis of "enabling environments" (e.g., decentralization, finance) supporting or hindering the localization process.
14. Key milestones for 2018 and 2019 for all expert teams involved in the process include:
- the delivery of the first complete working draft of each regional chapter by **December 2018**;
 - a global workshop, back-to-back with the 2019 UCLG Retreat and Campus, to debate the contents and adopt a final working draft of the Global Report, in **February 2019**;
 - delivery of the final drafts of all chapters in **April 2019**;
 - development of a summary **report to the HLPF** in **June 2019**;
 - finalizing editing, production and publication of the GOLD V report in **July-September 2019**, for it to be launched at the next UCLG World Congress.
15. **Key action:** the World Secretariat welcomes all spontaneous **contributions of examples of localization taking place in all regions of the world**. An updated collection of innovative practices is critical to develop awareness, catalyze imitation and collaborate, share and learn how to implement the global agendas locally. At the same time, **all UCLG Sections, Committees and partners are warmly invited to contribute by sharing all information available** on examples, case studies, practices and policies of localization of and strategic alignment with the global goals, as well as any innovative practices on the **Right to Housing**. We call on all members of UCLG and the GTF to keep on mobilizing their membership and ensure that the flow of knowledge and information is not interrupted.

The Right to Housing: reporting and next steps

16. Since May 2017, UCLG has led a worldwide movement of local and regional governments for the enforcement of the Right to Housing. In close collaboration with the City of Barcelona and the UN Special Rapporteur on Housing, Leilani Fahra, UCLG has established a **Wave of Action on the Right to Housing**, in support of the principle of accessible, decent, and affordable housing for all.

¹ LRG mobilization and information on their involvement is particularly important in the 51 countries which will submit a VNR in 2019: Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, El Salvador, Eritrea, eSwatini, Fiji, France, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Nauru, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Philippines, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Santa Lucia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom, Vanuatu.

17. The contribution of the GOLD Observatory to the Wave of Action is a special report on the implementation of the Right to Housing, in particular through the localization of SDG 11.1 on housing, in the different regions of the world. Local and regional governments play a key role in ensuring that housing is treated as a right rather than as a commodity, and the right to housing poses a challenge to the sustainability of our societies as we know them. The report aims to draw a map of housing policies, and explore what competences LRGs have, what powers and resources they enjoy to make sure that the right to housing is protected and accessible to everyone.
18. In close partnership with UCLG's Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights, GOLD began the process of research and analysis in November 2017, with an international workshop that laid the groundwork for the global report on housing. We are currently collecting information and analysis for Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia-Pacific. The calendar of the Housing report follows the same schedule as the GOLD V report.

The World Observatory on Subnational Governments' Finance and Investment

19. As established by the Steering Committee of the Observatory, which met in November 2017 with a significant participation of local and regional governments, UCLG and OECD have been leading the process of institutional development of the Observatory. It has mobilized a network of regional experts and focal points within national associations. It has also mobilized new institutional partners such as the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) and the DeLoG network to expand and consolidate the Observatory's outreach, and strengthen the collection of financial data and the assessment of the effectiveness of financial decentralization.
20. UCLG co-organized a methodological workshop with the OECD and UNCDF in April 2018, held in Barcelona with representatives of each UCLG Section, experts from local and regional government associations and relevant partners such as NALAS. The workshop produced a revised final version of the Observatory's methodology and agreed on a new data collection format that has since been used by regional experts, national associations and partners to develop the country fact sheets.
21. In light of these developments, subnational governments are strongly encouraged to build capacities and contribute to national, regional and global debates on public finance and investment, which is essential to adequately address the issue of how to implement national sustainable development strategies. The next step for the Observatory is to ensure that UCLG members and partners are provided with the necessary resources and capacities to access and use this data and the knowledge produced by the Observatory, as well as to discuss and improve findings, results and analytical evidence that support them.
22. **Key action:** members are called upon to identify a **focal point** in their association or city to form a global network of experts and participate in the **collection of data, analysis, advocacy and exchange of experiences**. This will be a key means of support to UCLG's strategy on localizing financing.

Item 7

✓ For information

CONSOLIDATING A LEARNING NETWORK FOSTERING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SDGs

Summary and recommendations

The UCLG Learning Agenda is devoted, through the involvement of members and partners, to the identification and sharing of local opportunities and solutions to address global challenges. The consolidation of UCLG as a learning network fosters UCLG's capacity to support decentralized cooperation and the implementation of local and regional priorities.

During 2018, learning activities have unfolded through two strategic axes: first, the localization of the global agendas, with special emphasis on the use of the training of trainers' methodology; and second, peer-to-peer learning experiences, with special emphasis on the thematic priorities of members and Sections.

The World Council is invited to:

1. **Take note** of progress made in the UCLG Learning Agenda;
2. **Encourage members to contribute** to UCLG learning instruments and activities.

1. The UCLG Learning Agenda aims to foster a learning culture throughout the organization and promote decentralized cooperation as a key tool for cooperation and development. In order to achieve these goals, and as we move forward in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the capacities and hands-on experiences of all UCLG members are instrumental. Hence, the UCLG Learning Agenda is articulated around two principal axes: action learning and localizing the global agendas. **Localizing the global agendas** aims to motivate members to learn beyond cities and territories to nurture and benefit from international engagement, while providing successful local policies and strategies related to the achievement of the global agendas. **Action learning** aims to enhance and support members in their own sense-making process to cope with complex and territorial dynamics.

Localizing through the Training of Trainers: an enhanced learning network

2. As part of the learning initiatives related to the localization of the SDGs, UCLG, along with different partners and members, has conducted several Training of Trainers activities (ToT) on localizing the SDGs. ToTs seek to stimulate real processes of mutual learning between participants. The practical, dynamic and interactive learning methodologies ensure that participants share concerns and answers with peers within the UCLG learning network. In this way, more members gain experience and support each other to be an active part of this important political process.

3. Increasingly, the membership is recognizing the added value related to the localization of the SDGs as a common framework to work towards a sustainable future at local level. While members of the Capacity and Institution Building Working Group (CIB) are integrating the SDGs in their organization, which includes awareness-raising and reporting activities among members of LGAs, some first experiences of integrating the SDGs in municipal plans and budgets are part of the Union of Iberoamerican Capital Cities (UCCI) strategy with UNDP, and the UCLGA African Local Government Academy (ALGA) has been reaching out to the regional training hubs.

Localizing the SDGs: learning modules and tools in development

4. As part of the learning initiatives related to the localization of the SDGs UCLG, as the facilitator of the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments (GTF), in partnership with UNDP and UN-HABITAT, has embarked on developing a series of training modules aimed at building the capacities of local and regional governments (LRGs) and their associations, in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals.
5. The **second module for localization** was finalized in 2018 through a series of consultation sessions with members and partners. The goal of the module is to inform participants on how the SDGs can improve local development planning processes, how they can be aligned to new and existing plans and, consequently, how local development planning can become a key driver to achieve the SDGs at all levels.
6. The CIB Working Group and its members were particularly engaged in the development of the **third module**. This module aims to strengthen the capacity of Local Government Associations (LGAs) on the SDG reporting process. Currently under development, this module is foreseen to be available online.
7. Furthermore, a new learning tool was developed to present the experience of the National Confederation of Municipalities of Brazil (CNM) and the German National Association in relation to the monitoring of the global agendas in municipalities.
8. In addition to the first module, which included sessions carried out together with regional sections (Eurasia, Metropolis, ASPAC), a ToT was conducted in March and followed up in October in order to prepare the launch of the second module. The sessions were held with the UCLG Committee on Urban Strategic Planning, hosted by the Municipal Institute of Learning in Durban (MILE), in partnership with ALGA.
9. Furthermore, 2018 has been witness to the following initiatives by the membership in collaboration with UCLG:
10. The city of Durban is aligning the SDGs with the Integrated Development Plan in more than city 10 departments, and is considering this a pilot for South African municipalities. This case is included in the UCLG Learning materials and the lessons learnt are helping to feed the UCLG monitoring strategy.
11. The city of Quito (Ecuador) is actively engaging with community representatives in an effective combination of participation, planning and urban management in line with the SDGs. UCLG supported the training of 40 participants from the metropolitan government as trainers, using module one and related learning tools, with the objective of widening access to the community by building the capacity of 1000 municipal employees and 400 neighbourhood leaders, who will support citizens' commitment to the global agenda.
12. The Government of Cape Verde is gathering all municipalities trained by UCLG and UNDP in 2016, in order to get acquainted with module two, leading to an important

country-wide learning experience that UCLG will closely monitor together with partners.

13. The Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP) has organized two trainings around the second module, paying particular attention to strategic planning and alignment of policies, enabling them to support local governments in Spain with the alignment and monitoring of local plans in line with the SDGs.

Action learning: local solutions to common global challenges

14. Beyond feeding the strategic agenda of the organization by promoting policies that are backed by the organization as a whole, the UCLG Learning Agenda offers a space for members and partners to test new ideas and methodologies and develop communities of practice to address specific interests and needs.
15. In 2018, the stronger involvement of active members, local government associations and Committees led to increased cooperation among the different teams in sections, and for local solutions to common global challenges to be better acknowledged and addressed. This enhanced the number of partnerships on specific learning activities with tangible results for the knowledge of members and enhanced cooperation, such as the programmes of the Committee on Local Economic and Social Development (LESD). Two main action learning events were carried out during 2018.
16. Under the leadership of the city of Riberalta (Bolivia) and FLACMA, in partnership with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and FAMSI, a peer learning exchange on policies and projects for small and intermediary cities in the amazon region took place from 16-18 April 2018 in Riberalta. The exchange brought together, for the first time, **40 political leaders and 70 participants** from cities, academia and associations of the Amazon region from Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. The event emphasized the importance of green economies as a lever of change to enhance the creation of sustainable local economies in line with the conservation of the environment.
17. Within the 2018 UCLG ASPAC Congress that was held in Surabaya (Indonesia) UCLG Learning, UCLG ASPAC and the city of Surabaya organized a peer learning on disaster risk reduction (DRR) and the localization of the Sendai Framework. Under the leadership of UCLG, the peer learning was developed in partnership with UN-Habitat, UNISDR, GIZ Connective Cities, the Guangzhou Award for Urban Innovation and the UCLG Working Group for the Territorial Prevention and Management of Crises. The event brought together 50 international participants, including mayors, technicians and experts, and enabled participants to exchange experiences and practices as well as to discuss how the Sendai Framework could be localized.

The way forward: next steps for the UCLG Learning Agenda

18. As a response to the ideas shared by members through a survey conducted in November 2017, the UCLG Learning Agenda is focusing on developing online learning mechanisms.
19. As we gear towards the UCLG World Congress in Durban the Learning team will work on the development of an agenda for a Learning Forum, where we will take stock of progress made and identify new priorities.
20. New tools and methodologies will be explored, in particular to link the learning experiences with the communities of practice.

21. The Training of Trainers for the localization of the SDGs will enter a new phase and will go from awareness-raising to peer learning on applied solutions.
22. Following the feedback from members, peer learning activities will have a special focus on gender, local economic development and disaster risk reduction.

Item 8
✓ For adoption

REPORT OF THE FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Summary and recommendations

The Treasurer will verbally present the key recommendations of the Financial Management Committee to the World Council.

The World Council is invited to:

1. **Take note** of the Treasurer's report;
2. **Approve** the decisions presented.

This item of the agenda will deal with the following issues:

- 8.1 Approval of the accounts and financial discharge for 2017
- 8.2 Approval of the draft budget for 2019
- 8.3 Auditor's report for the 2017 accounts (sent in a separate document)

Item 8.1

✓ For approval

APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL DISCHARGE FOR 2017

Summary and recommendations

During the previous meeting of the Financial Management Committee held in Strasbourg in May, on the occasion of the Executive Bureau, the 2017 figures and accounts presented were, at that stage, provisional and awaiting audit by professional auditors. This item now aims at presenting the final audited accounts for 2017.

The 2017 accounts were certified by the auditors and the final outcome is €10,709.17. A specific audit on the accounts was also carried out for the European Commission on the Operating Grant.

The following issues for 2017 are worth mentioning:

- a) Collected membership fees amounted to €1,060,000
- b) In 2017, UCLG was financially supported by the European Commission through an Operating Grant amounting to €1,075,000. As in previous years, not only UCLG but other parts of the network have been direct beneficiaries of the grant.
- c) Under the Programmes heading, an agreement was signed in October 2017 with the Climate Foundation through the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy for a total amount of €127,000.
- d) Regarding expenses, the different items are under the approved budget.

The internal UCLG control systems and internal procedures were certified by the auditors without reservations.

Professional auditors conducted the audit of UCLG accounts and presented a clean report, which can be found in Item 8.3.

The World Council is invited to:

1. **Take note** of the auditor's report;
2. **Approve** the accounts for the 2017 financial year;
3. **Approve** the allocation of the 2017 surplus of €10,709.17 according to the following distribution:
 - 20% of the surplus - €2,141.83 - to voluntary reserves.
 - The remaining 80% - €8,567.34 - to the surplus for the financial year.
4. **Give final discharge** to the Presidency, Treasurer and Secretary General for the year 2017.

Item 8.2

✓ For approval

APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2019

Summary and recommendations

This item presents the draft budget for 2019, analyzed and approved by the Financial Management Committee.

The World Council is invited to:

1. **Approve** the draft budget for 2019.

DRAFT BUDGET 2019

Income	MEMBERSHIP FEES	1,225,000	
	OTHER INCOME	50,000	
	ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS – CONGRESS 2019	120,000	
	GLOBAL PROMOTION CAMPAIGN – CONGRESS 2019	220,000	
	PROGRAMMES	1,100,000	
	OPERATING GRANT (EC)	1,500,000	
Total Income		4,215,000	
Expenditure	SALARIES AND SOCIAL CHARGES	995,000	
	FEES	120,000	
	OVERHEADS	100,000	
	MISSIONS AND ADVOCACY	120,000	
	COMMUNICATION	COMMUNICATION AND PUBLICATIONS (€35,000)	255,000
		GLOBAL PROMOTION CAMPAIGN CONGRESS (€220,000)	
	PROGRAMMES	1,100,000	
	OPERATING GRANT (EC)	1,500,000	
DEPRECIATION	25,000		
Total Expenditure		4,215,000	
RESULT		0	

Note: Besides the financial contributions received directly, UCLG should also acknowledge the following valuable contributions:

The City of Barcelona makes the headquarters available to UCLG, including its maintenance. This contribution allows UCLG to operate with reduced office costs.

Local authorities and LGAs, which ensure the Secretariat and the financing of UCLG committees and working groups, make a significant contribution in kind.

Host cities that support UCLG statutory meetings, providing logistics, meeting facilities, and covering organization and administrative support, as well as social programmes.

Item 9

✓ For information

UCLG WORLD CONGRESS 2019

Summary and recommendations

The triennial UCLG World Congress is a key moment for the local government world and the primary meeting point for local elected representatives and their partners. It is where mayors, councillors and presidents of regional authorities and their associations come together to set the local government agenda for the next three years and beyond, and to examine and debate key issues at the heart of local democracy and decentralization in the 21st century.

The Congress also has a strong institutional component, as it is the occasion to renew our Governing Bodies and elect the Presidency of the Organization.

The 2019 gathering, to be celebrated in eThekweni-Durban on 18-22 November, will be the first Congress following the Habitat III Conference and will also provide the opportunity to present progress in the implementation of the SDGs and their impacts at local level.

It should also be the occasion to visualize the state of our World Organization and the evolution of its membership and agenda.

The hosts, the city of Durban and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), will be invited to share their vision on the focus of the Congress and the host country's end of the preparations.

The World Council is invited to:

1. **Take note** of the progress made in the preparations of the 6th UCLG World Congress.

Item 10

✓ For information

UPDATES ON COMMITTEE'S WORK PLANS

Summary and recommendations

The work developed by Committees and Working Groups has always significantly contributed to the work of the UCLG network as a whole. The achievements seen since their inception have been great, and those same achievements and lessons learnt allow us to move ahead and reflect on the progress made in fostering the upscaling of practices, and to define a strategy that will lead us to develop a new narrative for our movement.

The renewed structure of consultation mechanisms was ratified by the World Council in Hangzhou in 2017. As per the Terms of Reference previously adopted, the Committees are invited to report to the World Council on the results of their work plans.

The World Council is invited to:

1. **Take note** of the Committees' work plans for 2019.

You will find in annex the work plans that the World Secretariat received from the following Committees:

STANDING COMMITTEE

1. Standing Committee on Gender Equality

COMMITTEES

2. Culture
3. Local Social and Economic Development
4. Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights
5. Urban Strategic Planning

Item 10 –Annex 1

UCLG STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENDER EQUALITY 2019 Work Plan

The Committee on Gender Equality has a mandate to monitor and provide inputs to the gender dimensions of the international agenda, as well as to ensure the mainstreaming of gender throughout the UCLG network.

In 2019, the Standing Committee, as the main body representing women in the organization, will have to set the priorities of the UCLG agenda on gender issues, as well as the working methods, facilitate the debate and ensure the decisions and monitoring of UCLG on any issue and process on gender equality, and will be particularly involved in the development and implementation of an All-UCLG gender equality strategy, currently under discussion.

➤ **Empowering and supporting a stronger visibility of women at local level and in UCLG leadership**

The UCLG Standing Committee on Gender Equality will organize debates on the challenges and realities of women's empowerment and leadership in the network, ensuring the implementation and monitoring of the All-UCLG strategy for gender equality within the governing bodies of the organization and in its external policy. Cooperation and dialogue with grassroots women's organizations will need to be reinforced, particularly via the active contribution of the regional sections. The Standing Committee will play a role in supporting UCLG's networks of women to elaborate and put in place a real regional strategy to consolidate the gender agenda in their sections and regions.

The Committee will also participate in assessing the launch of a UCLG Women Award, which would allow for more visibility in issues related to women within the organization, as well as the recognition of women's role in local life all over the world.

➤ **Meeting SDG 5 and mainstreaming gender equality in all 17 goals of the 2030 Agenda at local level**

The UCLG Standing Committee on Gender Equality, whose aims are the promotion and monitoring of the participation of women at local level across the world, and whose chair is member of the UCLG Presidency, is the motor behind UCLG Women, acknowledged as the global voice of local elected women by national agencies and the United Nations. UCLG Women will actively participate in and facilitate the exchange of experiences and practices, and will have a strong role in the monitoring and follow up of the evolution of women's situation at regional level.

As UCLG will continue to engage with the UN to monitor the implementation of SDG 5, the Standing Committee for Gender Equality will accompany the work of the regional sections in this regard and ensure the elaboration and setting of the political debate within the organization and externally, as far as SDG 5 and the gender dimension in all 17 goals of the 2030 Agenda are concerned.

➤ **Support the work of the Global Women's Caucus**

The UCLG Standing Committee on Gender Equality is composed of representatives from women's caucuses in each of the Sections of UCLG.

Despite the efforts to ensure gender equality in the UCLG Governing Bodies, the General Assembly in Bogotá agreed that the situation was not satisfactory and agreed to mandate the Standing Committee on Gender Equality to nominate a Global Women's Caucus in close coordination with the Committee on Statutory Affairs and in consultation with the Sections and its regional caucuses.

The Global Women's Caucus should ensure the inclusion of women's perspective in deliberations and policies. It should further enhance the participation of women in all areas of work of the organization.

The initial nominations to the Caucus were approved by the World Council in Hangzhou. Throughout the year, the Standing Committee has worked to support the work of the Global Women's Caucus and to increase the participation of women in the work of the World Organization as a whole, and inform women elected leaders in UCLG and beyond about UCLG's work and policies.

➤ **Facilitate the implementation of the regional caucuses**

The Statement of Local and Regional Women Elected Leaders before the World Summit of Rabat, issued on the occasion of the 4th UCLG World Congress in 2013, called for the inclusion of a women's caucus in each Section where the minimum quota fixed by the UCLG Electoral Procedure Rules was not reached.

In 2019, the Standing Committee will continue to work with Sections to facilitate the implementation of their corresponding regional caucuses. The regional caucuses will maintain a structural collaboration with the Global Women's Caucus in order to support its establishment and work.

➤ **Contribute to the identification of elected women leaders in the network through special regional events in coordination with the Sections**

In 2019, the Standing Committee will continue to work closely with Sections in order to contribute to the identification of elected women leaders in the network that are eager to engage in its activities. This mobilization will be capitalized upon around special regional events on gender equality.

➤ **Enhance the links with women's networks of sister organizations**

The Standing Committee has long focused on the partnership among local elected women and grassroots organizations to build their capacities and increase women's participation.

In 2019, the Standing Committee will expand this effort to seek synergies with local and regional government sister organizations that are also active in promoting gender equality in local policymaking and highlighting its contribution to global development.

➤ **Monitoring the Internal Equality Strategy of UCLG**

The Standing Committee will function as a sounding board for the World Secretariat in the implementation of the internal/institutional dimension of the gender strategy. A specific mechanism will be defined to monitor progress and support in addressing challenges.

➤ **Main events in 2019**

UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW62) in March.

2019 will be the year of UCLG's 6th World Congress and this gathering will be the first Congress following Habitat III, as well as the opportunity to present progress in the implementation of the SDGs and their impacts at local level. It is also a crucial moment in the institutional life of our organization, as our governing bodies will be renewed and the Presidency elected.

Throughout the year, the Standing Committee will work to ensure that enough female elected officials are included in the nominations to the Governing Bodies. According to the Electoral Procedure Rules of UCLG, the percentage of women represented in the governing bodies should reach 30% in 2019. Beside the electoral perspective, the Standing Committee will ensure gender mainstreaming in the Congress and Summit, mobilizing women speakers for each session, making sure that the gender perspective is included in the debates and the final outcomes.

COMMITTEE ON CULTURE

Mission of the UCLG Committee on Culture

The mission of the Committee on Culture, approved in Mexico (2010) and extended in Rabat (2013) and Bogotá (2016) is “To promote culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development through the international dissemination and the local implementation of Agenda 21 for culture”.

Main activities of the Committee in 2019

(Organized according to UCLG’s strategic priorities)

A. Implementation	
Culture Summit of UCLG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To prepare the third edition of the Summit, to be held in Buenos Aires on 3-5 April 2019, working closely with the UCLG World Secretariat given that the Summit will happen in the frame of UCLG’s Executive Bureau. - To work with all stakeholders to respond to expectations around the Summit, which should be seen as the most relevant biennial meeting on sustainable development, cities and cultural policies. - To widely disseminate the results of the Summit: final report, texts of the keynote speakers, videos, etc. - To publish the call for cities interested in hosting the 4th Summit, to be held in 2021
International Award UCLG - Mexico City – Culture 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To prepare and launch the fourth edition (2019-2020) of the Award, taking into consideration this Award is unique: no other similar initiative exists. - To evaluate the architecture of the Award and to innovate especially in the elaboration of bids and the promotion of good practices.
Database of good practices – www.OBS.agenda21culture.net	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To consolidate the dedicated website presenting our more than 130 good practices, searchable per 17 SDGs, the 9 Commitments of Culture 21 Actions and 70 keywords. - To align the OBS with #Local4ActionHub - To increase the number (Award 2017-2018, Pilot Cities), reaching at least 160 good practices -To analyze possible specific “sponsorship” for the database.

B. Advocacy	
Global civil-society networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To build-on the success of the campaign #culture2015goal that connected key global cultural networks in the SDG process. - To analyze feasibility of a global #culture2030goal campaign with key culture and “non-culture” stakeholders and networks. - To include aspects related to culture and sustainable development into the work of other cultural networks and civil society, in specific collaborations (participation in seminars, joint publications, meetings, etc.)
Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To establish long-term partnerships with UNESCO and the EU
City networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To consolidate an operational connection with all global / regional networks concerned by “culture in sustainable cities”, connecting this to the Summit
Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To align the communications programme with #Local4ActionHub - To improve the website, as a true portal to knowledge on ‘culture in sustainable cities’ - To assess existing work on social media (TW, FB) and consider broadening it to other networks (Instagram, LinkedIn) - To consolidate existing newsletters (<i>Info</i>, published twice a month and <i>Pilot Cities Newsletter</i>, every 2 months) - To design 2-3 new tools to disseminate our work

C. Monitoring and follow-up	
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To ensure full involvement of all members of the Governance Team in the leadership of the Committee.
Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To consolidate a balanced budget
Key narrative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To be self-critical and analyse weak / strong points of the narrative and methodologies. - To elaborate key briefings / new research on issues related to culture and sustainable cities, for example on education (SDG, target 4.7), on gender (SDG 5) or on national cultural policies (SDG 16).

D. Learning	
Peer-learning and capacity-building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To widely promote the practical toolkit “Culture 21 Actions”. - To align with #Local4ActionHub - To consolidate the Leading Cities and Pilot Cities programmes, adapting their contents to each participating city. - To facilitate peer-learning exchanges among

	<p>participating cities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To consolidate a group of experts that work with Pilot Cities, favoring the exchange and improvement of the learning methodologies - To design transition mechanisms between the Culture 21 Lab, Pilot Cities and Leading Cities programmes. - To design and implement specific learning activities with local government associations, in partnership with UCLG Sections. - To implement specific partnerships with UCLG Sections (with programmes adapted to Sections' needs). - To connect more explicitly with the Learning agenda of UCLG.
Seminars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To actively take part in initiatives organised by our members and partners, such as Jeju's Global Youth Culture Forum, the Climate Heritage Network, the Culture at Work programme for cities and civil society in Africa, and the Creative Mobilities seminar.

E. Strengthening the UCLG network	
Within UCLG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To support all UCLG World Secretariat initiatives. - To actively participate in the UCLG World Congress of Durban (October 2019) - To more actively participate in the Global Taskforce, particularly in the preparation of the report for the High Level Political Forum - HLPF (July 2019). - To advocate for our narrative ("culture as an operational dimension of sustainable cities") to be more explicit.
UCLG sections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To guarantee new areas of cooperation, with joint (advocacy and "on-the-ground") specific projects with all UCLG Sections.
UN Agenda 2030 and New Urban Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To widely disseminate the document "Culture in the SDGs. A Guide for Local Action", and to present it in as many forums as possible. - To participate in the HLPF (July 2019), in several formats.

Update in the leadership of the Committee

The Committee on Culture is a unique meeting point. There is no other structure in the world that gathers together cities, organisations and networks that foster the relation between local cultural policies and sustainable development.

We have a big responsibility: the UCLG Committee on Culture is the global leader of “Culture in Sustainable Cities”. Our narrative is based on human rights, good governance, people-centered development and the co-creation of the city.

The UCLG Committee on Culture is jointly chaired by Buenos Aires and the City of Mexico and is vice-chaired by Angers, Barcelona, Belo Horizonte, Bilbao, Bogotá, Jeju, Paris and Porto Alegre. The UCLG Culture Committee will meet on 20 October 2018 in Mexico City and it is possible that the governance team will experience some changes.

The Committee on Culture has a Secretariat located at the premises of the UCLG World Secretariat in Barcelona.

Two paragraphs summarizing the results of 2018

- Extraordinary success of the third edition of the International Award “UCLG - Mexico City – Culture 21”, whose Award ceremonies were associated to an international seminar on ‘Cultural Rights and Peace in the City’ and the annual meeting of the UCLG Committee on Culture (18-20 October 2018).
- Consolidation of the learning, capacity-building and networking programmes (Leading Cities, Pilot Cities and Culture 21 Lab), relying on the “Culture 21 Actions” toolkit.
- Publication of the document “Culture in the SDGs. A Guide for Local Action”.
- Launch of the OBS, our dedicated website presenting more than 130 good practices, searchable per 17 SDGs, the 9 Commitments of Culture 21 Actions and 70 keywords.

CONTACT

Email info@agenda21culture.net Web www.agenda21culture.net Twitter [@agenda21culture](https://twitter.com/agenda21culture)

COMMITTEE ON LOCAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Main activities of the Committee in 2019 organized according to the main components of UCLG's strategic priorities when relevant

A. Implementation

The Committee will continue to **promote and identify** members' and sections' experiences of economic development and the key themes approved in its terms of reference, as well as its contribution to the **global agenda** and **SDGs** (1, 5, 8, 10, 11, 16 and 17, among others) through different advocacy spaces.

In coordination with the regional sections and members (focal points) we will continue to identify good local practices, key to economic development, that contribute to an improvement in living conditions at the local level; and to public policies that help to improve territories and territorial partnerships for economic and local development, and become useful **instruments** for members in implementing LED.

In this sense, documents and political messages will be generated for the world organization.

Within the framework of triangular cooperation and in coordination with regional sections and the secretariat, innovative initiatives to implement actions and/or **pilot projects** in local economic development at local and territorial level will be identified.

B. Advocacy

Participation in advocacy activities in (inter)national debates.

The members of the Committee are committed to support UCLG in their advocacy work and advocate on behalf of UCLG in (inter)national debates on economic and local development.

The Committee will report on policies and review information and tools that help members participate in dialogues on economic development in their countries, in coordination with other UCLG committees and working groups with links to economic development.

In particular, the Committee will lead advocacy and the political positioning of the organization in the space of the 5th World Forum on LED (Córdoba, Argentina) as a global space for advocacy on the subject, and in the 3rd regional forum in Barranquilla, Colombia, generating or accompanying spaces for debate in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa.

C. Monitoring and follow-up

Support to experiences of advances in public local economic development policies and their links with the development agendas. Promotion of the role of local governments in terms of greater visibility, leadership and competency levels in local economic development. **Preparation of regional reports and agendas** integrating different approaches in economic development and experiences of **implementing economic development** and the **2030 agenda** - SDGs.

D. Learning

The Committee aims to contribute to a better exchange of information, coordination and collaboration among UCLG members active in international economic development through the following activities:

1. Communication: Develop a policy on communication.
2. Consultation: Ensure good regional consultation and adaptation of the agenda to national and/or regional contexts.
3. Exchange: Ensure that Committee meetings are held regularly.
4. Knowledge management: Generate a space for innovation, exchange, network of networks, training and learning, and develop an "observatory" on LED.
5. Development of "learning on LED" in coordination with the area of learning and webinars/capacity building.
6. Formative programmes.
7. "Coopera-active" programme.

E. Strengthening the UCLG network

The Committee will promote the **development of partnerships** with knowledge networks and city networks, as well as the incorporation of active key cities on the themes of the Committee. The generation of a consensual political discourse of the organization (**political positioning**) will also be promoted, as well as shared key axes. Key messages and political positioning shared with the organization will be presented as tools for political representation on sustainable economic development. The topic will be raised for discussion in the Policy Council in 2019.

2. Update in the leadership of the Committee and any relevant information

The Committee will be under the charge of two Co-Presidents (FAMSI and FCM), who will share the strategy and will have some areas of special interest and responsibility:

- FCM will pay special attention to themes related to the aspects of economic development linked to smart cities, commerce and investment, the green economy, the gender economy and regional economic development;
- FAMSI will pay special attention to themes related to local and territorial development: local economic development, new forms of wealth distribution, employment, the social and solidarity-based economy, management of services, the circular economy, internationalization of territories, etc.

The key responsibilities of the Presidency are:

- Meetings of the Committee's Chairs;
- Representing the Committee and informing about its activities in meetings of the Executive Bureau, World Council and General Assembly;
- Maintaining contact with the UCLG Presidency on behalf of the Committee;
- Representing the Committee in international organizations, in consultation with the UCLG World Secretariat;
- Supervising the annual work plan and communicating with members on behalf of the Committee;
- Consulting members on activities developed on behalf of the Committee.

A Vice-Presidency and regional focal points, with the participation of regional sections and city members, as well as the collaboration of thematic networks. A group of cities, sections and networks interested in participating in the Committee already exists.

The technical secretariat of the city situated in Seville, is driven by FAMSI in collaboration with the municipality of Seville.

3. Two paragraphs summarizing the results of 2018

- Constitution of a technical secretariat, in partnership with the municipality of Seville.
- Drafting of a strategy and work plan for 2018-2020.
- Presentation of the Committee and holding political debates in Strasbourg, Chefchaouen, Madrid, Africités and Quito.
- Development of learning workshops in Seville (May 2018), Marrakech (November 2018), Quito (October 2018), Chefchaouen (June 2018), Huelva (Public Services, May 2018).
- Positioning the organization within the debate of the World Forum on Local Economic Development, reinforcing the role of local and regional governments (coordinating the evaluation process of the World Forum of Local Economic Development in Seville, 2018).
- Incorporation of new members.

COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL INCLUSION, PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

1. **Main activities of the Committee in 2019 organized according to the main components of UCLG’s strategic priorities when relevant**
 - A. **Implementation**
 - Inform and support the participation of local government members of the Committee in initiatives related to the **social production of housing** and the right to housing (Social Production of Habitat Platform / Urbamonde);
 - Collaborate with the Global Platform for the Right to the City in the compilation of initiatives on **human rights cities** and cooperation between municipalities and civil society.
 - B. **Advocacy**
 - Encourage local governments to pursue initiatives in the thematic areas of the Committee;
 - Carry out **advocacy on human rights and the Right to the City** in the global agendas (Human Rights Council, OHCHR, follow-up of the 2030 Agenda, etc.), on behalf of local governments and UCLG;
 - Facilitate the participation of members and disseminate local governments’ initiatives in the **Policy Council on the Right to the City**;
 - Promote the agenda of the Committee and the participation of its members and partner organizations in the **waves of action** on local economic development, local democracy and equality;
 - Develop a follow-up to the advocacy strategies of the Committee and of UCLG on **housing and migration** for after the waves of action.
 - C. **Monitoring and follow-up**
 - Assess the level of **implementation of local human rights charters** by their signatory municipalities, as well as their priorities for the next period.
 - D. **Learning**
 - Define **new thematic and work areas** based on the initiatives and interests of the members as well as the trajectory of the Committee;
 - Take part in, organize or provide support to members in the organization of **seminars, forums and meetings** on the thematic areas of the Committee, in which members express their priorities and points of view, share, learn and nurture the advocacy work of the network;
 - Facilitate the consolidation of the **Community of Practice on Housing** from local points of view as well as political visions and local initiatives;
 - Take part in the second phase of the **MC2CM project** - migration between cities in the Mediterranean;
 - Strengthen the partnership with the **Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF)**.

E. Strengthening the UCLG network

- Give a voice and visibility to, and encourage the exchange of initiatives among, local governments to benefit and strengthen the Committee and UCLG in general;
- Strengthen the participation of the members in the **UCLG consultation and advocacy mechanisms** (Policy Councils, Communities of Practice and Waves of Action);
- Strengthen the participation of the Secretariat of the Committee in the **implementation and monitoring of the UCLG work priorities** for 2019 approved by the members;
- Strengthen the working relationship between the Secretariat of the Committee and the **UCLG teams** (policy, advocacy, learning, etc.) as well as with the **IOPD, FALP and GSEF**;
- Facilitate the link between the Committee, the **Global Platform for the Right to the City** and UCLG;
- Facilitate the link between the Committee, the **UN human rights system** (OHCHR, Special Rapporteurs, Groups of Experts, etc.) and UCLG.

2. Update in the leadership of the Committee and any relevant information

The leadership of the Committee has maintained the commitment of its four local government Co-Presidents: Plaine Commune and Seine-Saint-Denis, as well as Gwangju (with a new Mayor and Director of Human Rights) and Mexico City (new Head of Government from December).

The Committee has strengthened working relations with active cities (Barcelona, Montevideo) and has opened up possibilities for partnership with others based on specific lines of work (Madrid, Grenoble, Pikine, Sao Leopoldo). The Committee has further taken advantage of the mobilization generated by the Declaration "Cities for Adequate Housing" and the waves of action, which has also awakened interest and enabled the establishment of firm contacts with local authorities of new municipalities.

3. Two paragraphs summarizing the results of 2018

The members of the Committee have played a key role in the **wave of action on housing**, facilitating and promoting the adoption of the **Declaration on Cities for Adequate Housing**. In this regard, the Committee has provided an important link among the signatory municipalities, the **UN human rights system** and the **Global Platform for the Right to the City**. In the same vein, its members have promoted a **human rights-based approach and the Right to the City** in the follow-up of the global agendas (during events such as the World Urban Forum and the High-Level Political Forum). It has taken part in the organization of **forums and international meetings** on these issues in Saint Denis, Gwangju, Madrid and Barcelona. Insofar as that the role of local governments in the **governance of migration** and the inclusion of migrants played a central role in such meetings, the Committee has made valuable contributions to the **wave of action on migration**.

The Committee has been involved in the organization and realization of the **Policy Council on the Right to the City**. It has further supported UCLG in **communication and advocacy** campaigns throughout the year. The Committee has also taken part in international meetings in order to raise awareness about the work of the network and carry forward its political messages in areas such as **local democracy, the social and solidarity economy and the urban commons**. Its Secretariat has contacted the 400 signatory municipalities of the **European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City** in order to find out about their views on its implementation and new perspectives on its twentieth anniversary. The Secretariat has also organized a **training event**

for civil society on international mechanisms for the protection of human rights. Similarly, it has provided support to members in the **diffusion and assessment of local initiatives** related to the working areas of the network, making use of a renovated website.

COMMITTEE ON URBAN STRATEGIC PLANNING

1. **Main activities of the Committee in 2019 organized according to the main components of UCLG's strategic priorities when relevant**

A. Implementation

The Urban Strategic Planning Committee will in 2019 actively support the implementation of the Localization of the SDG's. This would be done in collaboration with various working groups and committees of the UCLG. It is important to note that the SDG's require a transversal approach to implementation and as such the Committee on Urban Strategic Planning would actively work with the other committees to continue localization. The New Urban Agenda has highlighted the need for Urban Planning as a tool to achieve Sustainable Development, therefore strategic planning is a crucial task that supports alignment of the SDG which would yield possible tangible impacts in the cities and territories. The role of the committee will be particularly important in looking for piloting experiences around issues of alignment and localization

B. Advocacy

Advocacy is a key area of the Urban Strategic Planning Committee, the Committee will continue to advocate on behalf of its members the need for:

- Devolution/Decentralisation
- Implementation of the New Urban Agenda
- Localization of the SDG's
- Continuation of the Public Space advocacy
- More local government and cities participation in the Voluntary National Reviews

C. Monitoring and follow-up

Monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the committee would be via the members of the committee. It is key that the members see and extract value from the work carried out by the committee. The increase and activation of member cities in the committee is key.

D. Learning

The learning agenda is a core component of the Committee, as such the USP will continue to support and be part of the Learning Agenda. We foresee in 2019 a more active role in the SDG Localization as key committee members have experience and knowledge to share in this field.

Building capacity in terms of Facilitation Skills, SDG localization training using Modules co-developed with Network Partners and coordinated by MILE and the Africa Academy are part of the Learning Agenda of UCLG.

The CUSP committee is particularly interesting for piloting the alignment and the implementation of the SDG, and the city of eThekweni piloted as one of the first African cities an SDG alignment inspired by the UCLG advocacy and learning work.

E. Strengthening the UCLG network

The USP will continue to be a key committee in the UCLG by effectively supporting the work of the Global Organization. Key to this would be to leverage support of the Member Cities in the committee to actively network with other like minded organizations.

As Mayors within the committee we would actively engage various networks on the importance and relevance of the UCLG. It is key that the UCLG pursue opportunities for member cities to cross pollinate work of various external networks.

We will need support to attract more cities and leaders to play an active role in the committee and participate in the activities, as well as contributing to expected outcomes.

The committee is also cooperating with several UN Habitat initiatives and outcomes, in particular with the planning branch that involves public space and pilot cities approach. Coordinator and member cities have been actively involved with UCLG in several meetings for knowledge exchange.

2. Update in the leadership of the Committee and any relevant information

The Committee is currently Chaired by Ethekewini Municipality (Durban). Mayor Gumede is supported at a technical level by the technical chairperson Mr Akkiah. The committee has been actively involved in the strategic planning and further supported by the UCLG Secretariat

The committee operates on an open structure where any member cities can champion areas of interest, this is key as it builds capacity as well as promotes succession planning.

One of the key areas that would need to be explored in 2019 is the need to expand the membership of the committee. This would require active marketing of member cities. In 2019 we look to expanding the Chairing of the committee to be more inclusive and representative of the values of UCLG.

Preliminary discussions and exchanges with the Senior leadership from the Asia Pacific and Latin American Regions have indicated interest of two possible cities whom wish to play larger role. The committee would also look favorably to welcoming a European city to co-lead as well so as to ensure a global reach to the need for Urban Strategic Planning. In order to foster the relation, eThekewini would look at opportunities at the World Council Meeting or the Next Executive Bureau meeting to finalize and confirm the proposed structure for the Urban Strategic Planning Committee. The USP would also look at acquiring additional support to assist the committee with its daily operational matters.

3. Two paragraphs summarizing the results of 2018

2018 has been a year where the committee as further entrenched its position in the advocacy for Urban Strategic Planning. Some of the Key Highlights for 2018

- USP was actively involved in the development of the learning material for the SDG localization modules 1 and 2. Module 3 is underdevelopment with the USP providing input into the core content
- Members cities largely from Africa were trained in the use of the SDG modules
- The committee was represented at the Strasbourg Executive Bureau
- Member cities actively engaged in the Metropolis Congress in JoBurg, where the co chair cities presented papers
- Continued support of the Public Space agenda through the attendance at the Expert Group Meeting hosted by UN Habitat
- Member Cities attended and presented at the High Level Political Session of the United Nations in New York
- Member cities actively participated in the CIB meeting in 2018
- USP Member cities attended and presented at the Smart Cities Congress
- Through Master Classes hosted in the City of Durban, the USP assisted local municipalities to engage in critical discussions on strategic planning
- USP Member cities hosted 2 k sessions at the WUF 8 in Malaysia
- 2 training sessions on Public Space developments were hosted at WUF 8
- USP Committee members were panelist in 6 other sessions in the WUF 8
- USP Members attended and presented at the African Forum for Urban Safety Masterclass

Item 11

✓ For adoption

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STATUTORY AFFAIRS

Summary and recommendations

A report on the discussions held during the Committee on Statutory Affairs will be presented orally.

The key points on the agenda included: the report of the Committee on Statutory Affairs in Strasbourg; the first draft of an all-UCLG gender equality strategy; updates on the UCLG Peace Prize; the terms of reference for the UCLG-UBUNTU advisory panel; the electoral calendar and framework for elections for the renewal of the Governing Bodies and the call for the elections of the UCLG Presidency; the call for the 7th UCLG World Congress; and membership issues.

The World Council is invited to:

1. **Take note** of the report presented;
2. **Consider** the recommendations made.

Item 12

✓ For election

APPOINTMENT OF THE NEW UCLG CO-PRESIDENT

Summary and recommendations

The Executive Bureau in Strasbourg was informed that Tahir Akyürek, UCLG Co-President and Mayor of the Metropolitan Municipality of Konya had resigned from the post of Mayor of Konya in order to present a candidature for parliamentary elections in Turkey.

The Committee on Statutory Affairs recommended the Executive Bureau to start an election process for a new Co-President. The Executive Bureau agreed to open a call for Co-Presidency, encouraging candidatures from the MEWA region, and the call was opened at the end of June 2018, with a deadline to present candidatures by 15 September 2018.

The Committee on Statutory Affairs will study the submissions and determine their eligibility at the meetings in Madrid and oral report and subsequent recommended process will be presented to the World Council. .

The World Council is invited to:

1. **Take note** of the recommendations of the Committee on Statutory Affairs;
2. **Elect** the new Co-President of UCLG.

Recalling the rules

1. **Composition:** As per the UCLG Constitution (art. 58), the Presidency of UCLG comprises the President and up to five Co-Presidents plus the Chair of the Gender Equality Committee.
2. The Presidency is elected by the World Council from among local government members for a renewable term between two ordinary sessions of the General Assembly.
3. At least one of the above office-holders must come from an individual local government member; at least one must come from a national association and at least one must come from a member of the Metropolitan Section. The President and Co-Presidents act on behalf of the World Organization, not of a specific Section.
4. **Eligibility:** Members of the Presidency shall hold a local electoral mandate; they must also be at the head of a) a local government or b) a national association of local governments.
5. In the case offices described under a) or b) are lost; their function within the Presidency will terminate at the date of the next meeting of the Executive Bureau.
6. The Executive Bureau shall declare the vacancy and hold the responsibility of organizing the process for electing his/her replacement, should the need arise.

Candidacies were to be presented by mid-September, to include:

- A short biography and a manifesto or motivation letter;
- Statements of support from six different Local Government members from at least three different Sections.