



## POLICY COUNCIL ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL, CULTURE AND CITY DIPLOMACY: KEYS TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

**Monday 8 February 2021, 14:00-16:00 CET**

Register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkf--hrjoiGt0h4NHfS-J95bj52xhwRdRz>

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*Interpretation will be available in English, French and Spanish.*

The Policy Councils are a policy development mechanism of UCLG, led by local elected leaders that allow for strengthening the political debate of our World Organization and develop policy recommendations in relation to strategic topics.

Up until now, the Policy Council on “Opportunities for All, Culture and City Diplomacy” has addressed, apart from the titular issues, roles such as transparency, accountability, and Local Economic Development, all of which play a particular role in ensuring opportunities for all. The Policy Council has also gathered discussions around urban violence, city diplomacy, and ensuring cities of peace, and also been the place in which the 2020 Rome Charter could be fostered.

### **Agenda of the session**

#### **1. Introduction by the Co-Chairs of the Policy Council**

a. Moderated by **Emilia Saiz**, Secretary General, UCLG

- **Jan Van Zanen**, Mayor of the Hague, UCLG Co-President
- **Souad Ben Abderrahim**, Mayor of Tunis

#### **2. Inspiring pitch from our special guests**

- **Vasu Gounden**, Executive Director of the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)

#### **3. Open floor with the Policy Councillors**

a. Moderated by **Frédéric Vallier**, Secretary-General of CEMR

- **Kristiina Hämäläinen**, Vice-President of Päijät-Häme Regional Council
- **José Manuel Ribeiro**, Mayor of Valongo
- **Féthi Riah**, City Councillor for International Relations of Grande-Synthe
- **André Viola**, Councillor for European and International Affairs of Aude County Council

- **Vannesa Bohórquez López**, Secretary of Culture of Mexico City
- **Xabier Ochandiano Martínez**, Councillor of Economic Development, Business and Labour of Bilbao
  - In representation of **Juan Mari Aburto**, Mayor of Bilbao
- **Qiang Sheng**, Director of Foreign Affairs of Xi'an
  - in representation of **Li Mingyuan**, Mayor of Xi'an, UCLG Copresident

Focal points:

- Nicolas Cimbaro, Project Officer, Aude County Council
- Onur Eryuce, Adviser to the Mayor, Izmir
- Mert Turkben, Assistant to the Adviser to the Mayor, Izmir
- Semin Solak, Director of Foreign Relations, Izmir
- Gökçe Başkaya, Head of Foreign Relations and Tourism, Izmir
- Şelale Dalyan, Directorate of Foreign Relations, Izmir
- Marlene Fautsch Arranz, International Affairs Officer of the Culture Secretariat, Mexico City
- Gisela Barbosa, Head of Citizenship and Youth Division, Valongo
- Laura Parsama, Senior Adviser, Päijät-Häme Regional Council
- Ahmed Abu Laban, City Director, Ramallah
- Daan Stelder, Project Manager, VNG International
- Jessie Post, Policy advisor VNG & CIB secretariat
- Martin Revault, Attaché to the Secretary General, CCRE-CEMR
- Shi Qi, Deputy Director, Center for International Friendship Cities, Xi'an Municipal Foreign Affairs Office

## Potential priorities for the next phase include engaging the entire network in:

### General priorities

- The inequalities that we are facing, as well as the growing mistrust between communities and their institutions, are growing trends that can hamper achieving opportunities for all.
- Engaging in a more explicit connection and interaction between the peace agenda, equality and service provision for all.
- Transforming practices to ensure that territories guarantee essential services and equal opportunities for all, in line with the right to the city and the right to life.
- Ensuring decent work for all and facing the challenges of the technological transition. Exploring what the right to work means in the post-COVID era and how to harness automation and innovation to ensure it benefits communities.
- The Policy Council is expected to reflect whether the mantle of "Opportunities for all" is sufficient to address the growth of inequalities in the COVID-era and what steps need to be taken to ensure this.

### Peace

- Maintaining a broad interpretation of the concept of peace aligned with the wide range of themes covered by the UCLG Peace Prize (third edition to be launched in Fall 2021).
- Focusing on intergenerational dialogue as a vital element to address conflict mitigation, and understanding that dealing with peace issues means looking at climate risk and disaster preparedness in relation to infrastructure challenges.

### Culture

- Addressing cultural intelligence and service delivery as relevant points to address at the UCLG Culture Summit in Izmir.
- Bringing attention to the cultural dimension of building back better, noting the role of cultural policies as a decisive factor for the recovery during and beyond the crisis.
- Emphasizing the importance of culture in the midst of the pandemic, and calling for the implementation of strong cultural and social policies to ensure sustainable development and peace.
- The necessity of deepening the role of cultural and digital rights, conceiving the democratic access to information technologies as a cultural right.
- Strengthening relationship with the culture agenda, as expressed by the UCLG Culture Committee

### Development cooperation

- Development and decentralized cooperation are key elements of our work, and an important tool to enhance city diplomacy.
- [Renewing the policy document on development cooperation formulated by UCLG](#), in close collaboration with the Capacity and Institution Building Working Group, UCLG regional sections and other partners, establishing links between the future of development with the newly mandated Pact for the Future.
- Continued dialogue with national governments and the international donor community on the continued need for local government development cooperation in times of COVID-19 and beyond.

### Relations with other Policy Councils:

- The Policy Council for the **Right to the City** was established as a direct link as a means to ensure the right to life and equal opportunities for all, including strengthening cultural rights.
- Recovering better from the pandemic in order to ensure cities and territories of peace calls for building planetary resilience. Ensuring the **ecological transition** is crucial to ensure cities of peace and opportunities for all, which offers links with the Policy Council on **Safer, Resilient and Sustainable Cities**.

## Links with international processes in 2021:

- Links with the upcoming **World Forum on Cities of Peace**, that takes place in October 2021 in Mexico City
- The 2021 **Culture Summit** in Izmir, which is integral to the work of the Policy Council.
- The review of the New Urban Agenda is also a process that could be followed-up closely by the Council,
- **HLPF 2021** reviews, among others, **SDG 16** (Peace) and **SDG10** (reduced inequalities), two of the key goals that are intertwined with the aspirations of the Policy Council.

## Links with other consultation mechanisms:

The World Organisation will encourage cross-fertilization among the different parts of the UCLG network and consultation mechanisms. However, it is worth highlighting the work with other areas, including:

- The **UCLG Committee on Culture** is already in synchronization with the Policy Council on Opportunities for all.
- The link between Local Economic Development and the work of the Council, meaning that the **Committee on Local Economic and Social Development** and the Policy Council could work in close collaboration
- Rebuilding trust between communities and their institutions as well as strengthening capacities in the local governance sector can serve to enhance the links between the Policy Council and the **Working Group on Capacity and Institution Building** and the **Community of Practice on Transparency and Open Government**.

## Links with the Axes of the Pact for the Future:

- The broad peace agenda and the focus on Culture as a fourth pillar of Sustainable Development, as well as the focus on addressing inequalities that was debated during the meeting, will naturally be more aligned with the axis of the **Pact for people**.
- Links with the axis of the **Pact for Planet** can be explored, in particular in regards to planetary resilience and peacebuilding.
- Rebuilding trust among communities and their institutions could further the link between the Policy Council and the axis of the **Pact Government**.