



POLICY COUNCIL ON SAFER, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES, CAPABLE OF FACING CRISES

Thursday 11 February 2021, 15:00-17:00 CET

Register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcud-Gvpz0jGtBN7XDscAShXTcXDFEWZxz_

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Interpretation will be available in English, French and Spanish.

The Policy Council on Safer, Resilient and Sustainable Cities, Capable of Facing Crises provides a unique platform for political debate and exchange on key topics and strategies on the issue of resilience. Since its establishment, the Policy Council has made important inputs on the urgency to build resilience in with an intergenerational rights perspective, which have been fundamental to define a UCLG's strategy on **Ecological Transition & Global Resilience**.

In face of the COVID-19 pandemic, the world is shifting from the traditional understanding of resilience in cities and territories, towards a wide and urgent concept regarding the capacity of local and regional governments to prepare and respond to periods of distress, and particularly to improve the **continued care and attention** provided to the communities.

The world is facing combined emergencies, as on **climate and health**, which confirms the fragility of existing systems and the perils of continuing to ignore accumulated and persistent inequalities and gaps. The current context adds a sense of urgency to act and compensate for the lack of structural resilience today, while building on the lessons and sacrifices of current generations to secure lasting endurance and the right of future generations to enjoy a safe and resilient world.

Agenda & List of confirmed participants

Opening: **Emilia Saiz**, UCLG Secretary General

Co-Chairs:

- **Fatimetou Abdel Malick**, President of Nouakchott Region
- **Johnny Araya**, Mayor of San José, President of FLACMA, Co-President of UCLG
- **Sami Kanaan**, Mayor of Geneva, Chair of the UCLG Permanent Working Group on Territorial Prevention and Management of Crises

Special guests:

- **Mami Mizutori**, UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction, UNDRR

Debate moderated by Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi – Secretary-General of UCLG ASPAC

Policy Councillors:

- **Almudena Maílo**, City Councillor of Madrid, Secretary General of the Union of Ibero-American Capital Cities (UCCI)
- **Fernando Gray**, Mayor of Esteban Echeverria
- **Rob Metz**, Mayor of Soest
- **Paola Pabón**, Governor of Pichincha
- **Sladana Zivkovic**, Deputy Mayor of Dijon
- **Francisco Toajas**, Mayor of Las Cabezas de San Juan, Co-Chair of the UCLG Committee on Local Economic and Social Development
- **Mohamed Sefiani**, Mayor of Chefchaouen, Chair of the UCLG Forum on Intermediary Cities

Guests:

- **Dionisio González**, Director of Advocacy & Outreach International Union of Public Transport

Representatives of Policy Councillors and Focal points:

- Jennifer Ramírez, City Councillor, Terrassa
- Joan Chicón, Director of European and International Affairs, Terrassa
- Hugo Salomão, Director of International Affairs, Belo Horizonte
- Jean-François Collin, Director of Superior Education and International Relations, Clermont-Ferrand
- Lautaro Lorenzo, Adviser, Esteban Echeverria
- Luca Nizzola, Project Manager of External Affairs, Geneva
- Bjørn Rongevær, Senior Adviser, Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities
- Jorge Villalobos, Director of International Relations, San José
- Changhee Lee, Deputy Director of Global Urban Partnership Division of Seoul Metropolitan Government
- Kyungmo Ahn, Manager, Global Urban Partnership Division, Seoul Metropolitan Government
- Ana Román, Director General, UCCI
- Fernando Rocafull, Sub-Director, UCCI
- Francisco Mugaburu, Head of the Cooperation and Networks Team, UCCI
- Emilio Rabasco, Director of Programs of Andalusian Fund of Municipalities for International Solidarity (FAMSI)

Identified priorities:

- **Local service provision**, as the access to water, energy, internet, mobility, and others, is crucial for building resilience through a holistic lens, for example considering its direct linkage to the health system, as exposed by the pandemic.
- **Food systems and security, as well sustainable tourism**, as motors of local development and economic recovery.
- **Global climate emergency**: floods, droughts, storms, hurricanes, ocean acidification, forest fires, etc, are expected to increase in intensity and frequency. Efforts at all levels will need to combine short- and long-term actions, targeting both mitigation and adaptation, observing the risks and differentiated impacts across continental regions and to those further behind.
- Fostering the **collaboration with international organizations and humanitarian agencies** is welcomed to be stimulated by members of the Council, since it can help

cities and territories to prepare and respond to crises, and also contributes to galvanizing the acknowledgement of cities and regions role in crises prevention, management and recovery.

- **Transportation and mobility** should be further considered on its unique function in response to crises, for example concerning logistics, access to food and services, leisure or the connectivity among cities and territories.
- Building resilience in the aftermath of the COVID-19 and other emergencies will require investments on **green infrastructure and nature-based solutions**, a unique opportunity to generate **decent jobs**, providing alternative to young generations and transforming the humankind relation with nature.

Relations with other Policy Councils:

This Policy Council and the topic of resilient cities have relevant linkages with the ongoing debates of other Councils:

- **Policy Council of Territorial Multilevel Governance and Sustainable Financing** is considering governance frameworks in times of emergencies, and the coordination among all spheres of government is key to building resilience and responding to crises.
- **Policy Council on Opportunities for all, Culture, and City Diplomacy**: global resilience and ecological transition are cornerstones to achieve peace and equality, and also will require a mindset transformation through core cultural values.

Links with other consultation mechanisms:

The World Organisation will encourage cross fertilization among the different parts of the network and consultation mechanisms. However, it is worth highlighting the connection with:

- **UCLG working group on Territorial Prevention and Management of Crises** is directly associated with this Policy Council: the political support of the council in the past led, among other, to the establishment of the International Solidarity Fund. Although their mandates are distinguished, members are invited to further consider their complementarity and specific scopes.
- **Forum of Intermediary Cities** and **Forum of Regions**: resilience should be also observed at territorial scale and considering the ecosystem of cities of all sizes.
- **Community of Practice on Food Security; Mobility; Urban Innovation**: these mechanisms can provide a space for actionable discussion
- **UCLG Learning Modules and Training of Trainers** on Resilience: provides the framework for the exchange of experiences, technical support and peer-learning.

Links with international processes:

- **On preparedness and emergency relieve**: Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction implementation, Global Alliance for Urban Crises. UCLG Co-Chairs the **Making Cities Resilient 2030** initiative, a platform by UNDRR that offers a one-stop place for tools and solutions.
- **On COVID-19 recovery**: job generation, green infrastructure, economic recovery, and other topics included in the UCLG Decalogue
- **On food systems**: UN Food Systems Summit, collaboration with FAO on urban food systems
- **On urban-rural linkages**: CBD COP 15 on Biodiversity, including topics of sustainable tourism, UN-Habitat Urban-Rural Guiding Principles
- **On climate change and adaptation**: UNFCCC COP 26 in Glasgow, Race to Zero and Race to Resilience

Links with Pact for the Future axes:

The Policy Council may provide guiding inputs on the relevance of resilience to the specific axes of the UCLG process on the Pact for the Future.

- Mainly links with the axis on **Planet** - deep connection to climate change adaptation and ecological transition, conservation and sustainable use of the global commons.
- The holistic view applied to resilience makes it relevant across all axes, including axis on **Government** (emergency governance, enhanced preparedness, risk assessment and planning) and axis on **People** (service provision, inequalities differentiated impacts of crises).

