



POLICY COUNCIL ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

Friday 12 February 2021, 15:00-17:00 CET

Register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAvdu6rqDMsGNcIbaykJmu45exjchX7T8zM>

UCLG team focal points: Jean-Baptiste Buffet, Massimo Perrino: policy@uclg.org

Interpretation will be available in English, French and Spanish.

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

The Policy Council on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda, launched at the UCLG World Council in November 2020, aims to look at the challenges and opportunities associated around the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, a critical corner stone for the development agenda and for the achievement of empowered, inclusive and resilient cities and territories.

The meeting will allow Policy Councilors to discuss concrete proposals for its agenda based on the mandate inherited from the Quito Outcome Document at Habitat III, **acknowledging the role of local and regional governments** in the review and follow up of the New Urban Agenda. The objective of the year to come will be to ensure that the voices of the constituency are heard in the process towards Quito+5 (UN High-Level Meeting scheduled early 2022), ensuring inputs through the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments, recognized as mechanism in the process initiated at Habitat III.

Agenda of the Session

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

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

- **Ilsur Metshin**, Mayor of Kazan, President of the United Nations Advisory Committee for Local Authorities (UNACLA)
- **Carlos Martínez**, Mayor of Soria, Envoy of the UCLG Presidency on the New Urban Agenda
- **Thembisile Nkadimeng**, Mayor of Polokwane, President of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), Co-President of UCLG

2. Inspiring Pitch from our Special Guests

- **Elkin Velasquez Monsalve**, Regional Director, Latin America and the Caribbean, UN-Habitat.

3. Open floor with the Policy Councillors

- a. Moderated by **Sergio Arredondo Olvera**, Secretary General of the Federation of Latin American cities, municipalities and associations of municipalities (FLACMA)
- **Damià Calvet**, Councillor for Territory and Sustainability, Catalonia Regional Government, President of INCASOL
 - **Gabriel Cruz**, Mayor of Huelva
 - **Peter Kurz**, Mayor of Mannheim
 - **Iliia Nozhechkina**, Chairman of Ulyanovsk City Council
 - **Berry Vrbanovic**, Mayor of Kitchener, Treasurer of UCLG
 - **Mohammed Saadie**, Mayor of Deirnbouh, President of the Union of Dannieh Municipalities, Vice-President of UCLG for MEWA

Focal points:

- Evgeniya Lodvigova, Deputy Mayor of Kazan
- Ruslan Galiakhmetov, Head of International Relations, Kazan
- Xolile George, Chief Executive Officer, South African Local Government Association (SALGA)
- Mercedes Sanchez, Deputy Director of Cooperation, Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP)
- Marc Darder, Head of Technical Cabinet, Regional Ministry of Territory and Sustainability, Catalonia Regional Government
- Elisabet Tuá, Coordinator of the Urban Agenda and Territory Secretariat, Catalonia Regional Government
- Anton Carpio, Urban Agenda and Territory Secretariat, Catalonia Regional Government
- Cristina Clotet, Architect, Catalonia Regional Government
- Emily Hruban, Policy Advisor, Mannheim
- Elena Pierce, Governance, Policy and Networks Advisor, Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)

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

- Deepening the debate on the recognition of local and regional governments as political actors in the review and follow-up of the New Urban Agenda.
- Allowing direct linkage with the **World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments** as formal mechanism for review and follow-up in the run-up to Quito+5.
- Ensuring articulation between the Policy Council and **UNACLA** when ensuring input to the monitoring and review of the New Urban Agenda.
- Stressing the link between the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the **localization** of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially within the context of SDG 11 on sustainable cities, and the development and implementation of **subnational urban policies**.
- Ensuring that the relevant **data provided for by local and regional governments** is taken into account in the **monitoring** and progress of implementation of the agenda-
- Guaranteeing the **territorial perspective**, and advocating for multilevel governance and the inclusion of local and regional governments in all processes related to the agenda.

Relations with other policy councils:

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 crucial role that the New Urban Agenda plays in the localization of the SDGs and therefore in the fulfilment of the agendas of other UCLG Policy Councils on **Right to the City and Inclusive Territories** and **Territorial Multilevel Governance and Sustainable Financing**.
- Ensuring that the New Urban Agenda is achieved requires a coordinated multilevel government response that ensures alignment of goals and objectives amongst all spheres of governments.

Links with international processes in 2021:

- Clear relationship with the 5-year review and follow up of the New Urban Agenda, Quito+5: taking place in 2021-2022. The objectives of the New Urban Agenda have been, and will continue to be, at the core of the global agendas such as the **2030 Agenda, and the Addis Abeba Action agenda**, among others, and this review moment will be crucial in cementing the political role of local and regional governments in this regard.
- Clear connection between the **localization** of the SDGs and the achievement of the New Urban Agenda and the power of the New Urban Agenda to be an **accelerator for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda**.
- Direct connection between the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the development and implementation of **subnational urban policies** spearheaded by local and regional governments from around the world and promoted by UN Habitat.

Links with other consultation mechanisms:

- Role of the Policy Council on the New Urban Agenda to be a sounding board for the **World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments**, convened by the Global Taskforce. The World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments is explicitly referenced in the text of the New Urban Agenda as having a key role in the review and follow up of the agenda.
- Direct link of the Policy Council and the work programme of UNACLA, both promoting the New Urban Agenda as an accelerator towards localization of the SDGs.
- UCLG Urban Strategic Committee: Urban and city planning as core element of the New Urban Agenda and its implementation, the work of the Council will link up with the inputs provided by the UCLG Urban Strategic Committee

Links with the Axes of the Pact for the Future:

- The connection between the New Urban Agenda and other core global agendas, especially in the light of the COVID-19 recovery, is clear. This is what directly connects it to the goals and aspirations set forth in UCLG's Pact for the Future. UCLG's Pact for the Future will be based on three axes: People, Planet, and Government.
- With regard to the specific axis it relates to, the relationship with the axis on government comes out strong as the importance of coordination amongst all spheres of government will prove to be key in the achievement of the New Urban Agenda.