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

26 October 2021, 13:30-15:30 CEST
Organized in the framework of Urban October

Register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYofu-qrT4qHt0U_2r5zrkG0sSzj2L8LYEI

UCLG team focal points: José Álvarez: j.alvarez@uclg.org; Marta Llobet: m.llobet@uclg.org.

Interpretation will be available in English, French and Spanish.

Agenda

Opening remarks
• Emilia Saiz, Secretary General of UCLG

Presentation of priorities by councillors
Moderation by Bernadia Tjandradewi, Secretary General of UCLG-ASPAC (TBC)

• Andre Viola, President of the Aude Provincial Council
• Féthi Riah, City Councillor of Grande-Synthe
• José Manuel Ribeiro, Mayor of Valongo
• Abdallah Anati, Executive Director, Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA)
• Xabier Ochandiano, Councillor of Economic Development, Business and Labour of Bilbao
• Faola Hodaj, Director of Innovation, City of Tirana

Remarks by partners

• Milou Jansen, Coordinator of the Cities Coalition for Digital Rights
• Catharina Isberg, Library Director, Helsingborg City Libraries
• Fiona O’Connor, Digital Literacy Expert from the Toronto Library

Open conversation and wrap-up
(Facilitated by Emilia Saiz, UCLG Secretary General)
**Issues covered until now by the Policy Council**

The meetings held in 2021 allowed the Sherpas and Policy Councilors to discuss concrete proposals for its agenda with particular attention to **curbing the growing inequalities enhanced by the COVID-19 pandemic**; **fostering the Peace Agenda**; and **redoubling the work of the Council to explore the linkages between “Opportunities for all” and an equitable recovery**.

The Councilors have particularly emphasized the following issues:

- **Engaging in a more explicit connection and interaction between the peace agenda, equality and service provision for all.**
- **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.
- **Reflecting on the need to broaden and the mantle of “Opportunities for all” to address the growth of inequalities in the COVID-era and what steps need to be taken to ensure this.**
- **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.**
- **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.**

- **Renewing the Policy Document on Development Cooperation** formulated by UCLG, in close collaboration with the Capacity and Institution Building Working Group (CIB), UCLG regional sections and other partners.
- **Continued dialogue with national governments and the international donor community** on the continued need for local government development cooperation in times of COVID-19.

**Preparing the Pact for the Future: issues that could be covered in the year to come**

- **Building on the Peace Agenda**: Identifying linkages between the Forum on Cities and Territories of Peace, the UCLG Peace Prize, and how to adapt our Peace Narrative ahead of the 2022 World Congress in Daejeon.
- **Bringing to the table the importance of city-to-city cooperation in peacebuilding and disseminating the renewed Policy Document on Development Cooperation**, in collaboration with the CIB working group.
- **Working for the most vulnerable**: Ensuring basic livelihoods, decent jobs, and narrowing inequalities through basic service delivery
- **Understanding the importance of time poverty** and equal access to time as a **way to foster equality**.
  - Potential links with Right to the City.
  - Potential links with the Committee on Local Economic and Social Development.
- **Health for all: universal access to healthcare.**
  - Links with UHC2030 (Universal health coverage) and UCLG’s role in the movement and the pathway to the 2023 high-level meeting on health.
  - Links with the #CitiesAreListening work on mental health and planning.
- **Opportunities for All at the international stage: equal opportunities**: SDG 4 (quality education) and SDG 5 (Gender equality) will be under review at the 2022 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).
- Potential links with the feminist municipal movement.
  - Links with work with UNICEF, and Right to the City.

- **Rebuilding trust between institutions:** Transparency and open government for city diplomacy.
  - Establishing linkages with the Policy Council on Multilevel governance.

- **Emphasizing the role of culture as the fourth pillar for sustainable development** in the Pact for the Future, enhancing cultural understanding and promoting cross cultural exchanges
  - Linkages with the UCLG Culture Committee.