

**UNITING  
FOR CHANGE:  
LOCAL AND  
REGIONAL  
GOVERNMENTS  
POWERING  
HIGH-IMPACT  
PARTNERSHIPS  
TO LOCALIZE  
EQUALITY,  
CLIMATE ACTION,  
AND PEACE**

**Local and regional governments are forging powerful alliances to drive meaningful change and impact at scale** to advance equality and wellbeing for all, promote climate action, and build peaceful societies from our cities to the global level.

By building alliances with international organizations and the United Nations, national governments, civil society, academia, and more, local and regional governments are strengthening participatory political processes and taking concrete actions to rescue the SDGs to meet the needs of present and **FUTURE GENERATIONS.**

Following the presentation of the UCLG Decalogue on High-Impact Coalitions during the 2023 SDG Summit, we are now looking at the 2024 HLPF's SDGs in review to bring about how **local and regional governments are accelerating the 2030 Agenda** by harnessing partnerships and multilevel cooperation to localize SDG 1 on **No Poverty**, SDG 2 on **Zero Hunger**, SDG 13 on **Climate Action**, SDG 16 on **Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions**, and SDG 17 on **Partnerships for the Goals**.

# We unite to localize SDG 1 and advance a new social contract centering human rights, equality and care

Local and regional governments commit to EQUALITY and CARE

Although the rate of extreme poverty is higher in rural than in urban areas, poverty and the exacerbation of inequalities are increasingly urbanized. Addressing this trend requires tackling the underlying structures and value systems that reproduce inequalities and allow poverty to perpetuate. **Local and regional governments address inequalities and poverty by revitalizing public service provision with human rights, equality and care as the basis of a new social contract.** As governments closest to the people and the first responders in times of crisis, cities and regions commit to guaranteeing that all communities, regardless of their administrative status and with attention to gendered needs, receive **equal opportunities** and can live **fulfilling lives**. They do so by ensuring universal access to local public services and providing **social protection systems** like housing and healthcare; they foster local economies of care and equality by orienting local economic development towards **equitable prosperity**; and they strengthen local resilience and climate justice to reduce the exposure of marginalized communities to climate-related extreme events and other socioeconomic shocks.

**Local and regional governments have long committed to collaborative governance with civil society organizations and in particular, grassroots organizations.** To address the feminization of poverty, we commit to further strengthening our alliances with **women's grassroots organizations** – the organized networks and groups of community women working to improve the living conditions and quality of life in their urban, periurban and rural poor communities in the Global South and North.



## **FOSTERING CARING CITIES AND SOCIETIES**

Caring cities and regions advance a feminist agenda that tackles gender-based inequalities and violence against women, guarantees equal rights for all, empowers local communities, and puts the wellbeing of people and planet as the highest priority. Together with the **Global Alliance for Care**, with UCLG taking part in its Management Committee, local and regional governments actively participate to this first global multi-stakeholder community that fosters capacity-building, collective action and joint advocacy towards the co-creation of care-centered political agendas from local to global level, as well as the recognition and participation in policy-making of caregivers and receivers.

## **FOSTERING DIALOGUE WITH WOMEN'S GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS**

Women are disproportionately affected by poverty, which is a persistent barrier to women's empowerment and gender equality. In cities around the world, grassroots women are working proactively to address the issues that are most pressing in their communities. These cover different challenges, from access to land to economic empowerment. Building upon the legacy of a historical alliance with the **Huairou Commission**, UCLG recognizes that fostering structural dialogue with grassroots women and promoting equitable prosperity and well-being for all also enables local governments to deliver more effectively on the promise of the SDGs. In this regard, the **UCLG TownHall and Feminist Caucus** that took part to the processes of co-creation behind the 2019 and 2022 UCLG World Congresses prove essential to ensure that **#CitiesAreListening** to grassroots women.

## **ADDRESSING THE INTERLINKAGES BETWEEN POVERTY AND HEALTH BY LOCALIZING THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

Local public service provision ensured by local and regional governments worldwide echoes the focus of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development adopted in 1994. Celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2024, **UNFPA** and UCLG organize a global consultation with local and regional governments, as part of the ICPD30 process. This includes reviewing and further supporting the role of the local and regional government constituency in ending poverty, through universal access to all public services, including education, employment opportunities, and high-quality health services; as well as in redefining health as a local and global common, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, guaranteeing universal access to health care and family planning public services and reinforcing women's and girls' empowerment. Local and regional governments renew their commitment to responding to population, development and urbanization challenges to transform them into opportunities for equality and a just ecological transition across the urban-rural continuum. Intermediary cities will have a key role to play in this regard.

## ENDING POVERTY AND ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES WITH HUMAN RIGHTS CITIES

Recognizing that all forms of inequalities and discrimination threaten the realization of human rights for all, Human Rights Cities draw up strategies and implement initiatives that address poverty and inequalities by leveraging the power of cooperation, solidarity and social justice to encourage meaningful citizen participation. The **World Human Rights Cities Forum (WHRCF)** has been held in Gwangju, Republic of Korea, since 2011 as an annual event, to realize the vision of a human rights city. The **2023 declaration** reaffirms the commitment to implement the Resolution on Local Government and Human Rights since its adoption by the UN Human Rights Council – which recognized the significance of the Human Rights Cities movement.

## ALLIANCES, KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND INNOVATION FOR LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The **World Forum on Local Economic Development (WFLED)** is an open process that promotes international dialogue and the exchange of local economic development experiences, becoming a platform that provides the opportunity to transform a global alliance of committed actors into concrete partnerships at the national and local level. The next edition of the Forum will be held from April 1 to 4, 2025, in Seville, Spain, with the goals of strengthening global alliances and consolidating a network of governments, international organizations, and local actors. The Forum not only enriches collective knowledge but also allows to discover innovative solutions adaptable to different local contexts. The WFLED focuses its efforts on local experiences, recognizing that the most effective solutions arise within the communities themselves. By building development models tailored to the specific needs of each territory, it ensures that interventions are relevant and sustainable, directly impacting poverty reduction.

## ADDRESSING INSECURE HOUSING AND IMPROVING INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS FROM A WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY PERSPECTIVE

Access to adequate housing and land is one of the most pressing challenges of today and directly linked to poverty and inequalities. No fewer than one in every five of the planet's urban residents either currently lives, or has lived at one time or another, in inadequate housing that lacks tenure security, material adequacy and/or access to services. As per the New Urban Agenda, the **Cities Alliance Informality Taskforce** including, amongst others, Habitat for Humanity, Slum Dwellers International, UN-Habitat, South Africa, and UCLG, reaffirms “our pledge that no one will be left behind and commit ourselves to promoting equally the shared opportunities and benefits that urbanization can offer and that enable all inhabitants, whether living in formal or informal settlements, to lead decent, dignified and rewarding lives and to achieve their full human potential.”

*Pendiente parrafo*

## **CHAMPIONING SOCIAL JUSTICE ON A GLOBAL SCALE**

Our world faces multiple and interconnected challenges to social justice, stemming from overlapping crises and long-term structural economic transformations. Rising rates of extreme poverty, working poverty, child labour, youth unemployment, and informal work underscore the urgency of addressing inequalities and ensuring decent work globally. The **Global Coalition for Social Justice** unites partners from governments, employers' and workers' organizations, international institutions, enterprises, non-governmental organizations, and academic institutions in a transformative initiative. Led by the International Labour Organization (ILO), this coalition of which UCLG is a partner, has a mission to foster multilateral cooperation and accelerate progress toward the SDGs, championing social justice on a global scale. The coalition aims at enhancing advocacy, promoting policy coherence, and generating knowledge.

In light of the persistent challenges posed by poverty worldwide and the promising strategies rooted in local and regional initiatives, alongside the heightened global attention on poverty alleviation within forums like the G20 and the revision of SDG 1 at the 2024 HLPF, local and regional governments call for **multi-stakeholder collaboration to tackle poverty from the ground up**. We highlight that eliminating poverty and inequalities must go hand-in-hand with strengthening local institutions and governance structures and inclusive financing, in alliance with organizations and movements responding closest to the needs of the people: local and regional governments, and grassroots organizations. We call for a **global, multilevel and inclusive policy-making to advance a paradigm shift on development, economic growth, and prosperity: placing care at the center**. We urge the UN system and Member States to recognize the role of local and regional governments as key actors to end poverty in all its forms and achieve inclusive, just and sustainable societies.

# **We unite** to localize SDG 2 and achieve human well-being and food sovereignty for all

**Local and regional governments commit to ERADICATE HUNGER**

The acceleration of climate change, conflicts, and inflation, are global challenges that directly impact food systems, and more importantly, the access of marginalized groups and disadvantaged populations to sufficient, healthy and sustainable food. **Local and regional governments play a strategic role in fostering sustainable food systems and promoting food security and sovereignty.** They have been mobilizing for years to deploy solutions adapted to local contexts and the specific needs of local communities. This includes recognizing the role of the informal economy in food security and livelihoods, as well as focusing on women as providers of food security and protectors of agro-biodiversity.

**Local and regional governments** The local and regional government constituency is long committed to working together with a wide variety of stakeholders and with all spheres of government to end hunger, particularly within the G20, ensuring that local and regional governments are part and parcel of the initiatives to end hunger through addressing inequalities and climate change. Local and regional governments further advance the localization of SDG 2 through the full involvement of the constituency in international policymaking processes such as the UN Food Systems Summit and the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS).

---

**URBAN20**





## BOOSTING CITY DIPLOMACY AND JOINT ADVOCACY TO END HUNGER

The **Urban 20 (U20)** is a city diplomacy initiative that brings together cities from G20 member states under a common framework to discuss global economic, climate and development issues. U20 cities form a common position and issue recommendations for consideration by the G20 presidency and heads of state, enhancing the role of cities as global economic and political leaders. The U20 initiative is permanently convened by C40 Cities and United Cities and Local Governments, under the leadership of a chair city that changes each year. This year's cycle is co-chaired by the cities of Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo in light of the Brazilian presidency of the G20. This year, **particular importance has been placed by both the G20 and the U20 on ending hunger and its relationship between inequalities, social inclusion and climate change.** The G20 is planning to launch a Global Alliance against Hunger to bring this issue forward in the G20.

## CONTRIBUTING TO GLOBAL POLICY PLATFORMS ON FOOD SECURITY

The **UN's Committee on World Food Security (CFS)** is the foremost inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for all stakeholders to ensure food security and nutrition for all. It uses a **multi-stakeholder approach** to develop and endorse policy recommendations and guidance on various **food security and nutrition** topics. UCLG is part of the Advisory Bureau and Group of the CFS, ensuring the local and regional government constituency is involved in its work. This year, the CFS will be launching a report on urban and peri-urban food systems and will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the CFS' Right to Food Guidelines.

In light of the worrying levels of food insecurity around the world, as well as the growing priority ending hunger is taking on within the G20 and through the revision of SDG 2 at the 2024 HLPF, local and regional governments set out a call to action for **multi-stakeholder action to end hunger from the bottom up.** We urge Member States to take into account the policy recommendations stemming from policy processes linked to SDG 2 such as the G20 and U20 and the CFS' report on urban and peri-urban food systems, and to fully include local and regional governments in deliberations related to ending hunger moving forward. We call to **ensure that local public service provision is front and center in the road towards ending hunger.**

# We unite to localize SDG 13 and power climate action through multilevel governance

Local and regional governments  
commit to multilevel CLIMATE ACTION

The localization of SDG 13 by local and regional governments worldwide is structured by the Paris Agreement adopted in 2015 and the generation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). **Local initiatives driving the implementation of SDG 13 are significantly successful through the mainstreaming of multilevel governance for climate action since COP26.** These results were particularly highlighted during the Local Government and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) sessions at COP28, showcasing the pivotal role of local and regional governments in climate action globally. Moving forward, the local and regional government constituency is committed to continuing to accelerate the localization of SDG 13, as well as facilitating knowledge sharing and peer learning among municipalities and regions worldwide, and promoting the adoption of best practices and innovative approaches in climate action.

**Local and regional governments are committed to expand multilevel and multistakeholder alliances for transformative climate action,** by strengthening the positioning of the local government perspective through the LGMA and the GTF. This aims at generating coalitions and alliances that would help consolidate the localization implementation capacities of local and regional governments. Last year, the advocacy initiatives of the local and regional governments constituency on climate change, together with Bloomberg Philanthropies, culminated in the validation and endorsement of the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) by 72 countries during COP28. The local and regional government constituency is committed to supporting the CHAMP initiative, responding to the need for mitigating the climate emergency and connecting urbanization and climate action through multilevel cooperation.

## **BRINGING CHAMP TO THE FOREFRONT OF THE LOCALIZATION OF SDG 13**

At COP28, cities and subnational governments were given a significant role in addressing climate change, with unprecedented participation from over 500 mayors, governors, and local leaders. This included events such as the first Local Climate Action Summit (LCAS) and the second Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change. A key outcome of LCAS was the launch of **CHAMP**, an initiative by the COP28 Presidency with support from Bloomberg Philanthropies and the main local and subnational governments networks and organizations, including the LGMA. CHAMP, endorsed by 72 countries, aims to ensure cooperation between national and subnational governments in climate planning, financing, and implementation, guaranteeing that future NDCs include robust subnational actions for emissions reduction and resilience. It represents a significant step in long-term advocacy for multilevel climate action. CHAMP is currently being rolled out by the organized constituency of local and regional governments through three main processes: the CHAMP Partners Group, Convened by the COP28 Presidency, the LGMA Working Group on the CHAMP initiative, and the GCoM Taskforce on CHAMP, under the Global-Regional Coordination Technical Working Group.

This **Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) taskforce** has been set up under the Working Group on Global Regional Coherence in liaison with both the CHAMP Working Group from the LGMA. The Taskforce will seek to foster the ground for a meaningful and specific continued conversation that can nurture the High Level Policy Dialogue that is one of the main axes of development of the CHAMP initiative.

We urge Member States to ensure that climate action is put at the heart of the SDG recovery plan, and generate multilevel measures and channels to accelerate local action, through the involvement of local and regional governments in formulating the 2025 NDCs to **strengthen implementation coordination mechanisms**, but also through the National Engagement Plans. Local and regional governments further call for the endorsement of the CHAMP initiative to design and implement new, ambitious and multilevel national climate plans by 2025, and call for the acknowledgement of the key role of local and regional governments in the global agreements and national climate plans to achieve ecological transformation.

# We unite to localize SDG 16 and place youth participation at the heart of peacebuilding

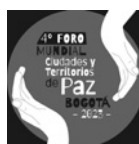
Local and regional governments  
commit to PEACEBUILDING with YOUTH

SDG 16 provides an ambitious set of commitments to build more peaceful, just and inclusive societies for all. Yet, progress in its localization is paralyzed and, in some cases, regressing. Violence remains a persistent and complex challenge. Following an encouraging five-year drop from 2016 to 2021, recent years have seen a surge in global violent deaths, linked to the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, political instability, insecurity and humanitarian emergencies. At a local level, cities are often venues for multiple and interrelated forms of violence: from conflict-related violence and organized crime to gender-based violence. In spite of these challenges, **local and regional governments are leading the way in developing innovative and participatory approaches to violence prevention and reduction**. City-to-city cooperation and city diplomacy initiatives highlight the role of local peacebuilding. Further, local access to justice for all and developing local knowledge have proven integral to show that there is the willingness and the potential, in spite of the often lack of powers, to deliver SDG 16 at the local level.

**Local and regional governments are committed to work together with other spheres of government and stakeholders towards the localization of SDG 16, particularly within the unfolding of the New Agenda for Peace and the renewal of governance that puts meaningful youth participation as a cornerstone of local democracy and a building block of peace and good governance in our societies. The local and regional government constituency is committed to widening alliances with young people to foster youth participation in local and global policy-making, strengthen intergenerational alliances and social cohesion, and rebuild trust in public institutions.**



PEACE  
IN OUR CITIES



## EMPOWERING YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN PUBLIC LIFE AS A BUILDING BLOCK FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE AND PEACE

This commitment builds upon several processes promoted by local and regional governments over the years. This includes the structural engagement of the youth and local and regional government constituencies throughout the **Youth Caucus** organized within the context of the UCLG Town Hall Process. This year, new Guidelines on youth participation stem up from the 'Shaping our Future' Conference, organized by the **City of Utrecht and the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG)**, with UCLG and UN-Habitat in the run-up of the Summit of the Future to discuss equal opportunities for all young people, education, employment and innovation, and decision-making.

## RENEWING OUR COLLECTIVE UNDERSTANDING OF LOCAL PEACEBUILDING

The UCLG **World Forum on Cities and Territories of Peace**, over four iterations, has highlighted the role of local and regional governments in addressing urban violence and human security, growing into a space that builds on initiatives on local peacebuilding, and the interaction between service provision, reducing inequalities, and peace and security in cities and territories. Its four editions have allowed for the constitution of a political commitment from local and regional governments all over the world to **understanding local peace beyond the absence of violence, and integrating human rights, care, and gender equality** into local policies to create cities and territories of peace.

## AN AMPLIFIED PARTNERSHIP ECOSYSTEM TO PROMOTE THE LOCALIZATION OF SDG 16

The localization of SDG 16 takes a new dimension with a reinforced partnership ecosystem between the local and regional government constituency and relevant stakeholders to **ensure that the leading action on the ground of local and regional governments is aligned with and listened to in global policy processes** advancing peace and governance in partnership. This process has catalyzed the production of a joint paper with **Peace in Our Cities**: 'Advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies (SDG 16) at local and regional levels: A government perspective'. It will be presented at the HLPF as part of the GTF's Towards the localization of the SDGs annual report.

## WIDENING ALLIANCES FOR DEMOCRACY AT ALL LEVELS

The **Global Democracy Coalition** is a multi-stakeholder alliance of more than 120 democracy organizations from around the world committed to advance and protect democracy worldwide and to influence the Summits for Democracy and the Year of Action. The coalition provides access to a network of like-minded organizations, to share information on democratic innovations and good democratic practices, to identify opportunities for collaboration and to better coordinate their efforts, specifically in relation to the Summit for Democracy, but also in their democracy strengthening efforts more broadly. The Global Democracy Coalition Forum is supported by the Robert Bosch Stiftung GmbH Foundation, Ford Foundation, and International IDEA. UCLG as a member of this coalition represents and defends the importance of **local and regional governments as promoters of democracy**, especially at the local level.

We urge Member States to take into account the policy recommendations stemming from policy processes linked to SDG 16 such as its revision during the 2024 High-Level Political Forum, the discussions around Chapter 2 of the UN Pact for the Future, and to fully **include the local and regional government constituency in deliberations related to good governance, trust and youth inclusion as building blocks for peace**. We stand ready to promote the localization of the dispositions stemming from the New **Agenda for Peace** into the Pact for the Future, and of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda. For this, we call for a structural partnership with the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General for Youth Affairs.

Renewing political commitment and sparking collaborative efforts, we reaffirm our dedication to co-creating powerful partnerships to achieve the 2030 Agenda at global and local levels.

**Join us**, local and regional governments worldwide, to localize **EQUALITY**, **CLIMATE ACTION**, and **PEACE**

# PACT ACTING FOR THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY THE POWER THAT UNITES US

PACT FOR THE FUTURE  
OF HUMANITY

 **UCLG**  
United Cities  
and Local Governments



Co-funded by  
the European Union

This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of UCLG and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.