

## **KEY DECISIONS**

### **MEETINGS OF THE UCLG EXECUTIVE BUREAU**

### **23-25 MAY 2018, STRASBOURG**

*The city of Strasbourg, at the invitation of Mayor Roland Ries, Co-President of UCLG, hosted the first session of the UCLG Executive Bureau from 23 to 25 May 2018 with policy dialogues organized in partnership with UN Habitat.*

The 2018 UCLG Executive Bureau, held in the European Parliament, gathered over 300 local and regional delegates including over 70 political representatives, as well as more than 50 national government officials from more than 25 different countries. International organizations such as UN-Habitat, the International Association of Public Transport and the Open Government Partnership, as well as representatives of the Council of Europe and CLGF, were also present. For the first time, the meetings of the governing bodies of UCLG included a **dialogue between national and local governments**, set up in collaboration with UN-Habitat, in the framework of the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA) and the Global Taskforce. This high-level segment aimed to pave the way towards the High-Level Political Forum, which will take place in July and will review Goal 11 on Sustainable Cities.

The segment was introduced by a high-level session for national delegations, featuring the UCLG President **Parks Tau** and the UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat **Maimunah Mohd Sharif**. The spaces for debate hosted by the **UCLG Policy Councils** created a safe environment for exchanges where both national and local and regional government representatives identified priorities to be tackled in order to achieve the universal goals underpinning the 2030 Agenda. The two-day discussions underlined the need to ensure political will from national governments to increase capacities at local level. They further called for local and regional governments to embrace the global agenda as their own and enrich its implementation with local experiences and vision.

Aside from the statutory meetings (Financial Management Committee, Committee on Statutory Affairs and Executive Bureau), several thematic sessions were organized in Strasbourg. On the first day, **Secretaries General of the Sections** were invited to a working session to discuss the 2018 work plan and look to strengthen synergies with the World Secretariat and among themselves. Several consultation mechanisms held meetings at the European Parliament: the **Working Group on Territorial Prevention and Management of Crises** convened a meeting in parallel to the meeting of the Global Alliance for Urban Crises, seeking to reinforce joint work and potential synergies. The **Forum on Intermediary Cities** held its Steering Committee, in view of the preparations of the First World Forum of Intermediary Cities to be held in July. The **Community of Practice on Transparency and Open Government** held its first meeting since its formal creation in Hangzhou, as did the **Community of Practice on Mobility**. The **Committee on Local Economic and Social Development** gathered its members to further develop its plan of action. Moreover, the European section of UCLG, **CEMR**, convened a Caucus to gather its members, and the Global Fund for Cities Development, **FMDV**, organized a working session of its board to inform about the progress made on the integration of FMDV in UCLG.

Among the statutory discussions held during the Business Session of the Executive Bureau, members analyzed the progress made on the 2018 work plan and the UCLG strategy on localizing finance for sustainable urbanization. The Intermediary Cities agenda and the Local4Action hub were also discussed during the session. The winners of

the 3rd edition of the **International Award UCLG-Mexico City-Culture 21** were announced, and members agreed to open a call to fill the vacancy acknowledged in the Co-Presidency. They also discussed the new global partnerships, received updates on the Policy Councils and consultation mechanisms, and were informed about the progress on new mechanisms, such as UCLG-UBUNTU and the mechanism to monitor local democracy and local elected officials under threat.

*This document provides a summary of the main decisions adopted during the different statutory meetings. Detailed reports will follow and will be presented to the relevant bodies for adoption.*

## **I. POLICY DECISIONS**

- 1. Progress report on the work plan for 2018**
- 2. New global partnerships**
- 3. High-level dialogues and updates on Policy Councils**
- 4. The Local4Action Hub**
- 5. Strategy on Localizing Finance for Sustainable Urbanization**
- 6. Intermediary Cities**

## **II. STATUTORY ISSUES**

- 1. Report of the Committee on Statutory Affairs**
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- 1. Motion on the escalation of conflict between Israelis and Palestinians**
- 2. Supporting the peace process through local action: promoting exchange among local governments in both Koreas**

## **I. POLICY DECISIONS**

### **1. Progress report on the work plan for 2018**

1. The business session of the Executive Bureau, chaired by the President of UCLG, **Mpho Parks Tau**, and UCLG Co-President **Roland Ries**, acknowledged the changes that UCLG is undergoing to meet the demands of a changing world. The President highlighted the work done in order to further cement the perspectives of local and regional governments in the implementation of the global development agendas by continuing the quest to enhance our spaces at the global tables and expanding partnerships with all types of stakeholders.
2. The **President of UCLG** commended the efforts of all parts of the network in working towards enhancing our presence, the quality of our work and our mutual collaboration. Our work as a constituency continues to grow, which makes us all stronger and more visible.
3. Among the mentioned highlights, the President paid special tribute to the work of Sections and Committees, which contribute to making our voices heard in every corner of the world. The Research and Learning agendas of UCLG continue to be key elements of our work, in particular in view of the next edition of our flagship report on the state of local democracy and decentralization.
4. The Bogota Commitment reflects the determination of local and regional governments to take their rightful place in various global efforts to address the complex challenges of the 21st century. In this regard, the President mentioned the progress made in defining an advisory system for the organization, and in developing the Local4Action Hub, a critical instrument to enhance the cohesion of our network. Our synergies, alignment and communication platforms all contribute to enhance our cohesion and ability to work together.

#### **Decisions:**

- **Members of the Executive Bureau took note of the progress made in the work plan for 2018.**
- **They also took note of the Sections' priorities and encouraged further synergies to be sought.**

### **2. New global partnerships**

5. The Executive Bureau agreed that it would have been impossible to achieve some of our successes in the negotiations of the global agendas without the support and commitment of like-minded stakeholders. It also agreed that it was time now to deepen these partnerships, going from exchange to collaboration and concrete joint action, in order to better support local and regional governments.
6. The issue of mobility and public transport was one of the highlights, particularly thanks to the collaboration with the International Association of Public Transport (UITP). Members agreed that public transport is not an end in itself, but rather a means to reach more livable cities, foster social inclusion and strengthen local economic growth. Mobility is at a turning point and the future of cities depends on the adoption of ambitious sustainable urban mobility strategies. On the occasion of the Business Session of the Executive Bureau, and as the leading network of cities and the passionate champion of sustainable urban mobility, UCLG and UITP signed a Global Strategic Partnership to advance in the development of this critical policy agenda, sharing a powerful global voice as well as an innovative platform for common urban action.
7. The need to enhance relations with youth organizations and to include their visions in our policy discussions was brought to the table by the Mayor of Karesi. It was

proposed to develop structural relations with UN-Habitat Youth to empower young people. The President of the Moroccan Network of Youth Councils, member of theWorld Urban Youth Councils Network, proposed a strong network of youth councils, paired with a catalogue of best practices, to help mayors deliver their messages.

8. The **Secretary General** of CLGF highlighted the value of the work carried out under the umbrella of the GTF and stressed that there is no time for exclusive ownership of any political issue. We are all committed to working in a political movement, aligning our organizations to work together on the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as bridging inequalities, in particular through the promotion of the participation of women and youth in politics. He expressed his commitment to continue enhancing the partnership with UCLG. His words were welcomed by the Executive Bureau, who mandated the World Secretariat to work in this direction.
9. The Bureau further welcomed the initiatives to introduce the urban perspective in the agenda of both the G7 and G20. It expressed full support for the U20 initiative convened by C40 in collaboration with UCLG, and took note of the joint statement being developed and led by Horacio Rodríguez Larreta, Mayor of Buenos Aires, and Co-President Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris.
10. A new era of UCLG-ICLEI relations was also announced, which would culminate in the signature of a MoU and institutional presence in the ICLEI Congress in Montréal on 20-22 June.

#### **Decisions:**

- **Members took note of the ongoing and new global partnerships.**
- **They were encouraged to actively contribute to the success of these new alliances, as well as the consolidation of old ones.**

### **3. High-level dialogues and updates on Policy Councils**

11. The four Policy Councils, which had held their inaugural sessions in Hangzhou, hosted high-level dialogues between Mayors and Ministers in Strasbourg, prior to the Executive Bureau.
12. The **Policy Council on Right to the City** addressed topics such as adequate housing, migration and gender equality, and members shared their views and policies on the Right to the City and its implementation.
13. The discussions around the right to housing were supported by the **Barcelona Manifesto**. A first draft had been presented in Hangzhou. The updated Manifesto (see annex 1) presented in Strasbourg advocates that current trends are putting the right to housing and the Right to the City at risk. Real estate speculation, the financialization of housing, touristification of historic neighbourhoods, etc., are growing phenomena that threaten the equity and sustainability of our urban model. Cities need to take a central role against gentrification.
14. The session of the **Policy Council on Opportunities for All** revolved around how to protect the core values of culture, citizen participation, and promote solidarity and peace as the bases for sustainable development. Particular emphasis was placed on the political participation of women and the necessary renovation of democratic institutions through greater citizen participation. The Council further announced that the opportunity offered by the second edition of the World Forum on Urban Violence being held back-to-back with the World Council would allow to develop a City Diplomacy and Peace Manifesto which could serve as a reference for different parts of the network.

15. The discussions of the **Policy Council on Multilevel Governance** focused on the territorial approach to development. Mayors and Ministers discussed how to build governance capabilities, implement effective partnerships and ensure accountable and transparent governance. It is necessary to change the dynamic of competition, sometimes even of confrontation, to ensure partnerships and genuine collaboration between different spheres of governance.
16. The **Policy Council on Resilience** focused on opportunities and responses to emerging urban areas for inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable territories. This dialogue, organized in the framework of the Talanoa Dialogue, also approached environmental policies to improve sustainability and resilience in urban settlements, as well as responsible consumption and production.

**Decisions:**

- **Members of the Executive Bureau took note of the updates and reports of the inaugural sessions of the Policy Councils.**
- **They commended the quality of the high-level dialogues held in Strasbourg and recognized the unprecedented opportunity given to include national delegations in our debates.**
- **They also welcomed the idea of further defining policy areas to be worked on by the different councils.**

#### **4. The Local4Action Hub**

17. UCLG's strategic priorities are conceived around the notion that local and regional leaders need sound evidence, as well as timely advice, in order to develop the actions towards localizing the SDGs. The Local4Action Hub, an initiative co-developed with the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) aims to further consolidate UCLG's capacity to deliver on the 2030 Agenda and to support its members on innovation, learning and visibility of local actions.
18. The Local4Action Hub should enhance the potential to deliver together on the core objectives of the Strategic Partnership with the European Union, aiming to promote good local governance, capacity building and protection of human rights, as well as bridging inequalities. It should further enhance the networks' capacity to promote municipal international cooperation at the country level, and the contributions to the UN-led platform, the Local2030Hub. Overall, the Hub should also support a clear visualization of what UCLG is doing as a whole and enhance synergies among the different parts of the organization.

**Decision:**

- **Members took note of the proposal presented regarding the Local4Action Hub and agreed that working sessions should be developed at regional level and during the Annual Retreat to shape the Hub.**

#### **5. Strategy on Localizing Finance for Sustainable Urbanization**

19. Few things will define our capacity to deliver as much as renewing municipal finance systems, both nationally and internationally. The Executive Bureau discussed the outline of a strategy that will seize the opportunity to build and enforce a compelling narrative on local finance, with the aim of strengthening our voice internationally, as primary stakeholders of the global agendas.
20. This work will build on the experience of the Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV), which will be reintegrated into the UCLG organization and will further count on the support of the United Nations Development Capital Fund (UNCDF) that will

launch a local fund with UCLG and will co-lead a global coalition of local governments and financial institutions, campaigning for new financial instruments.

21. Building on the discussions held during the dedicated session the day before, members of the Executive Bureau welcomed the initiative to integrate FMDV in UCLG and reaffirmed the importance of securing transfer mechanisms from national to local levels, transparent and reliable usage of local budgets by municipalities, and local taxation to ensure that local governments are less dependent on external funding.

**Decisions:**

- **Members of the Executive Bureau took note of the progress made.**
- **They mandated the World Secretariat to continue working on these lines and present concrete proposals on the integration of FMDV in UCLG by the World Council in order to implement the discussed strategy.**

## **6. Intermediary Cities**

22. The first UCLG Forum on Intermediary Cities aims to be a step towards the creation of a specific agenda on Intermediary Cities. It will take place in Chefchaouen on 5-7 July and, as the **Mayor of Chefchaouen** recalled, it is a process that was launched in 2014. Among the expected results of the Forum, the Mayor mentioned a Charter of Intermediary Cities and the creation of a permanent platform, to help exchange learning and experiences, and to generate changes from the local level.
23. The **Mayor of Odienné** shared her support for this initiative, explaining that the dialogue held about decentralization in intermediary cities needs to be taken one step further, in the framework of an overall reform that would strengthen the role played by intermediary cities in public expenditures. She also reaffirmed her commitment to keep working towards the Forum.
24. Members agreed that this new perspective from intermediary cities is necessary today, as one third of the world's population live in intermediary cities. These cities are ready to take on their responsibilities and they are willing to generate changes in order to better deliver to their citizens.

**Decisions:**

- **Members were invited to take note of the proposal presented.**
- **They were encouraged to participate in the Forum.**

## **II. STATUTORY ISSUES**

### **1. Report of the Committee on Statutory Affairs**

25. The Committee on Statutory Affairs met on Thursday 24 May. The **Mayor of Libreville and Vice-President for Africa** presented the report to the Executive Bureau.

#### ***UCLG's role in monitoring local democracy and local elected officials under threat***

26. In view of the increasing situations in which the integrity of local government and its representatives are undermined around the world, the World Secretariat has sought to deepen partnerships that will allow the organization to enhance its understanding and mapping of the state of local governance and democracy across the world.

27. The Committee took note of the report of the **Deputy Mayor of Paris** and mandated the Secretariat to work on three pillars: working with international organizations that are monitoring democracy globally with a local component, using our own International Observatory on Participatory Democracy that is exploring the future of democracy, and a third pillar on the protection of the rights of local elected officials, pursuing a similar status as Parliamentarians.

***UCLG–UBUNTU: an international advisory system to the service of the Presidency and World Organization***

28. Members recalled that the new dynamics of our world (insecurity, the intensification of conflict, displacement) underscore the importance of strengthening organized local government through organizational consolidation and renewal, so that the various actors in the local, national, regional and global systems can collaborate effectively towards the implementation of shared commitments.
29. In light of UCLG's need to engage with a multiplicity of global and regional issues, as well as navigate its own consolidation and renewal, the Commission on Statutory Affairs considered it essential to create an advisory mechanism to support the Presidency of UCLG.
30. Members of the Committee on Statutory Affairs took note of the initial proposal, mentioned the need for the Panel to respect regional diversity and gender balance, and mandated the Secretariat to further develop the concept and present a concrete proposal for adoption in Madrid.

***An All-UCLG Reference Manual of Procedures and Good Governance***

31. Members started by indicating that, as per recent audits and evaluations of the World Secretariat and Sections, our organization already applies high-level standards.
32. However, members expressed the need to enhance the Basic Guide for Active Participation in UCLG's Governing Bodies with Guidelines of Good Conduct during decision-making processes.
33. Members were convinced that joint development and compilation of these rules will facilitate sharing and implementation.

***Changes in the composition of the UCLG Presidency***

34. The members were informed that Tahir Akyürek, UCLG Co-President and Mayor of the Metropolitan Municipality of Konya (Turkey) has resigned from the post of Mayor of Konya.
35. Members of the Committee acknowledged the vacancy. They agreed to recommend to the Executive Bureau that a global electoral process be opened between the meetings of Strasbourg and Madrid. It was further agreed that it would be appropriate to ensure continued representation from MEWA. It was also noted that the new Mayor of Konya was ready to step into the Presidency.
36. The conditions of the process would be the same as those applied during the Congresses, with a call being opened at the end of May, a deadline for candidatures at the end of September, and an election on 5-6 November by the World Council.

***Political dialogue between MEWA and the Lebanon Office***

37. The Committee was informed of a political dialogue facilitated by the Treasurer between the MEWA Section and the Lebanon Office, where both parties agreed to present a joint paper for collaboration by September. Both parties expressed their

hope and wish to reach agreement to be presented at the World Council. The Committee welcomed the positive developments and the efforts made by the parties.

### ***UCLG meetings 2018-2019***

38. Members recalled that the hosting of the UCLG annual statutory meetings is a crucial contribution to the network by UCLG members, and provides remarkable international visibility.
39. In an effort to facilitate programming in the medium term, the following dates are shared with members:
  - World Council 2018, 5-6 November 2018, Madrid
  - Annual Retreat 2019, 11-15 February 2019, Barcelona
  - UCLG Culture Summit and Executive Bureau 2019, 3-6 April 2019, Buenos Aires and Montevideo. The 2019 Executive Bureau will take place on 6 April in Montevideo.
  - World Congress and World Council 2019, 18-22 November 2019, eThekweni-Durban

### ***Membership issues***

40. The Committee on Statutory Affairs shared the list of membership requests and expressions of interest received with the Executive Bureau (see annex 2).

### **Decisions:**

- **Members took note of the new proposals for UCLG-UBUNTU, the proposal to monitor local democracy and local elected officials under threat, as well as the proposal for a manual of procedures and good governance.**
- **They acknowledged the vacancy in the Co-Presidency and mandated the World Secretariat to open a call for candidatures after Strasbourg, following the process usually applied for Congresses.**
- **They stressed the importance of ensuring the continuity of the representation of the MEWA Section in the Presidency.**
- **They took note of the dialogue between MEWA and the Lebanon Office and mandated both parties to work on a joint paper, to be presented in September.**
- **They took note of the membership requests and expressions of interest received. As per discussions at the Committee on Statutory Affairs, they mandated the World Secretariat to revise the list of membership requests from Lebanon presented by MEWA and ensure all information required was included in order to finalize adhesion.**
- **They took note of the calendar of UCLG meetings for 2018 and 2019.**
- **They took note of the changes in the composition of the Governing Bodies.**

## **2. Report of the Financial Management Committee**

41. The Financial Management Committee met to examine information related to the financial issues of the World Organization. The **Honorary Auditor** presented the report to the Executive Bureau.

### ***Accounts 2017***

42. The Committee received information concerning the 2017 accounts and the provisional closure for 2017. They noted that the financial year might end with a

slight positive result of €11,000 after the final audit, which is to be performed in the coming months.

### ***Execution of 2018 budget***

43. Members were informed that the grant from the European Commission for 2018 had been formalized and amounts to €1,610,000. The Committee was further informed about how the different parts of UCLG will benefit from this grant.
44. Activities undertaken in 2018 are in line with the budget approved. No further deviations from the planned budget are expected.

### ***State of membership fee payments***

45. The Committee congratulated the improvement in the collection of fees and thanked the Sections for the efforts made.
46. The Committee was informed that agreements had been reached with ASPAC, MEWA, EURASIA and CORDIAL on a renewed membership fee scheme, following agreements in Bogota to revise the situation in those sections that had difficulties in collecting fees.
47. It was clarified that no revision was envisaged for European fees overall. However, the requests from the French members to lower their contributions due to the situations being faced in their organizations was granted.

### ***6th UCLG World Congress in 2019***

48. Members received information about the draft agreement with the host organizations, SALGA and Durban, that was later signed during the Business Session of the Executive Bureau.
49. Members reminded not to undervalue the commitment that our hosts are taking, as it represents a great contribution.
50. It is anticipated that the first instalments related to the Congress agreement will be received this year.

### **Decisions:**

- **Members of the Executive Bureau took note of the report and recommendations of the Financial Management Committee.**
- **They took note that the issue of membership fees should be referred to the Presidency, as it is a political issue.**

### **3. UCLG awards**

51. The winners of the 3rd edition of the UCLG-Mexico City-Culture 21 Award were announced by the **Secretary for Culture of Mexico City**. Lyon, in France, and Seongbuk, in the Republic of Korea, are the winners of this edition that included over 90 candidatures from all over the world.
52. The **Charter of Cultural Cooperation** in Lyon has been implemented for over 15 years, involving 27 municipal services, cultural projects and events, including those that receive the most funding from the city, which altogether carry out over 300 projects, actions and services adapted to the challenges of policies that connect culture and sustainable development across the city.
53. The programme "**Common Seongbuk Artist Roundtable: Local Culture Governance**" began in 2014 in Seongbuk, a district of Seoul, and has become the

most important community initiative in this area, involving 300 people working together on the basis of cultural governance. The Artist Roundtable defines itself as a network that works for the coexistence and cooperation of the local culture.

54. The two ex-aequo winners of this edition in the individual category, which recognizes internationally-renowned personalities who make a fundamental contribution to the relationship between culture and sustainable development, are civil society activist Basma ElHusseiny, leader of the Action for Hope organization, and philosopher Patrice Meyer-Bisch, who is known for his work in the field of cultural rights and currently chairs the Observatory on Diversity and Cultural Rights.
55. The Jury also decided to make special mention to the following six projects (in alphabetical order): Dublin, Hamilton, Montevideo, Nablus, Novosibirsk and Saha-Gu. These six projects are excellent examples of local implementation of Agenda 21 for Culture.
56. Members of the Bureau were also updated on the UCLG Peace Prize, that aims to reward initiatives preventing conflicts, and focusing on reconstruction and peace consolidation. The next Prize will be held during the UCLG Congress next year in Durban. The jury is currently being formed and the call for applications is foreseen to be open towards the end of 2018.
57. The **Secretary General of UCLG** also reminded members of the Guangzhou International Award on Urban Innovation, and the Award of the International Observatory on Participatory Democracy, stressing that we need to make sure that everything we learn from these awards can feed into the rest of the work areas of UCLG.

#### **Decisions:**

- **Members took note of the progress made on the development of the four Awards.**
- **They congratulated the winners of the 3rd edition of the UCLG-Mexico City-Culture 21 Award.**

### **III. POLITICAL MOTIONS**

#### **1. Motion on the escalation of conflict between Israelis and Palestinians**

58. Members of the Executive Bureau stressed their deep sorrow due to the terrible events that have taken place recently in Palestine, with over 70 Palestinian citizens who have lost their lives. Members were informed that a draft motion was presented to the Committee on Statutory Affairs, drafted by the Secretariat and at the request of UCLG MEWA. The motion was based on the motion already developed on the occasion of the World Council in Hangzhou.
59. Following discussions during the Committee on Statutory Affairs, the Secretariat was requested to present a new draft emphasizing the importance of local action and solidarity and putting state affairs aside. The new draft was put forward for discussion among the members of the Presidency before distribution at the beginning of the session of the Bureau.
60. Both the **Mayor of Strasbourg** and the **Secretary General of UCLG** stressed that the final version of the motion, presented to the Executive Bureau, was a document of compromise, aiming to reach consensus among members. It preserved reference to the Hangzhou motion but did not mention it explicitly.
61. The **Vice-President for Europe** expressed his concern at how compromise can weaken political positions, and his regret that the text did not include stronger commitments. He disagreed with the vision that references to state matters and

called for UCLG to take stronger stands in these issues which were of significant importance. He explained his abstention as a sign of disappointment while understanding the importance of having the motion (even if a weaker motion in his view) adopted.

62. The **Secretary for Culture of Mexico City**, and the **Mayor of Bangui**, both stressed the crucial importance of working towards peace, recalling the difficult situations their own countries are facing.
63. Four other member expressed abstention (Barcelona City and Province, FEMP and MEWA). All of them agreed however, that compromise should be given priority in such delicate situations.

**Decision:**

- **The motion was adopted with 5 abstentions (see motion in annex 3).**

**2. Supporting the peace process through local action: promoting exchange among local governments in both Koreas**

64. The **Mayor of Strasbourg** made reference to the important peace talks taking place in Korea. He highlighted the need to contribute to the peace processes everywhere in the world by fostering local solidarity and diplomacy.
65. The **Secretary General of UCLG-ASPAC** supported this proposal on behalf of the membership in the region and committed the Section support to this endeavour.

**Decision:**

- **The World Secretariat and ASPAC were mandated to explore concrete proposals for cooperation in this area in close coordination with the South Korean membership. The area of cultural heritage was mentioned as a possible theme to explore.**