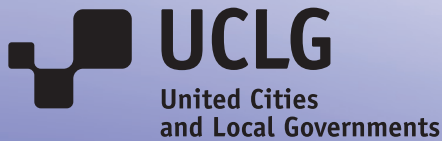


# PACT FOR THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY


The Daejeon Political Declaration



PEOPLE

PLANET

GOVERNMENT



PACT FOR THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY

Mandated and inspired by local and regional government leaders from around the world. The Pact has benefited from inputs from civil society partners active in our Town Hall process and accompanied by an international advisory committee that, together with the World Secretariat policy team, have held the pen, namely: Billy Cobbett, Luca Bergamo, Carlos Moreno and Maria Fernanda Espinosa.

# PACT FOR THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY

**We, local and regional governments and their associations from around the world, representing communities large and small, metropolitan, rural and urban, gathered at the 7th UCLG World Congress in Daejeon, Republic of Korea, from 10 to 14 October 2022, under the theme of Local and Regional Governments Breaking through as One, adopted the Pact for the Future of humanity as follows.**

## A CENTURY OLD MOVEMENT

The World Fair of Ghent opened up in 1913 and with it the first ever International Congress of Cities. Gathered under the motto "the Art of Building Cities and Organising Community Life", the message sent, already over a century ago, was loud and clear: the planning of our towns and cities was a realm for creativity and co-creation that had in the adequate management of the commons a beacon of our life together.

The whole event, as the International Union of Cities that it sparked, was the product of the peace movement. Significantly enough, one of the organizers of the event, Henri La Fontaine, won the Nobel Peace Prize that year. In Ghent, aware of the growing political unrest at the national level and the premonitions of war, our incipient municipal movement gathered to seek a global transformation that, through a new type of government, addressed the global dimension of the challenges they were about to face. This transformative initiative came to be known as city diplomacy.

In the post conflict peace building that followed the two World Wars, the solutions drawn by the international peace movement focused on the same State relations that had put our societies on the brink of self-destruction. And yet, the role of our constituency of local and regional governments was as relevant as underestimated. Technical cooperation and twinning became important articulators of our space in the international stage, and an instrument of human culture that brought together populations, strengthening the bridges between them regardless of political affiliations.



It was a dangerous world. Peace, the ultimate pre-condition for community life, was not granted anymore, and hence the art of building cities and organizing community life, as recognized in 1913, took a step forward to intensify city-to-city links that superseded the conflicts of national governments.

The spirit of the municipal movement whas been steadily growing stronger and so did the call for greater recognition of cities, territories and their networks as political actors in the multilateral system. Our constituency consolidated its position in the global stage through the UN Habitat Conferences in Vancouver (1976) and Istanbul (1996), where the first World Assembly of Cities and Local Authorities took place. The municipal movement celebrated its centenary in 2013 to see, only three years later, the historical achievement of the New Urban Agenda. The Quito Outcome Document enshrined the Right to the City and brought our organized constituency together within the international system by acknowledging the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments as its follow-up and review mechanism.

In this urban era, we are embracing our origins to deliver a systemic transformation. Safeguarding local democracy, building peace through mutual cooperation, and remaining loyal to the values and principles of decentralization, subsidiarity, gender equality, self-government and accountability.

But in 2020, the world stopped again, and the way we all relate to each other radically changed, perhaps forever. The COVID-19 crisis acted as a magnifying glass that highlighted who and what we were leaving behind.

While the pandemic put us in front of an unprecedented scenario, it also gave us a renewed sense of purpose to deliver on the transformations we needed -of our beliefs, of our actions, of our partnerships- to break through as one. We understood that failing was not an option. To overcome the current levels of inequality, address an environmental crisis that is reaching a point of no return, and challenge the widening cultural divide.

However, two years after the breakout of the pandemic, the world does not seem to live up to that spirit of hope anymore. Innovation and change are no longer the main drivers of our vision. Solidarity is not leading our action. The polarization of our world is reaching new heights, and bringing us closer to the moment in history that, over a century ago, led to our foundation. The stakes are as high as ever before.

But today we are not in the same dark place. We as municipal movement are more equipped. We have wider outreach. And there is a multilateral system committed to strengthen global governance for the sake of present and coming generations. The UN Summit of the Future will represent the keystone of this foundational moment, and the Pact for the Future will be the contribution of UCLG members and our organized constituency, articulated around the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments.

For a world that bridges local actions and global trends, bringing the territorial perspective to the global agendas. For a feminist world that cares and guarantees equal rights for us all. For world driven by well-informed, critical and empowered communities. For a world based on solidarity.

United Cities and Local Governments, an equality driven movement, is committed to facilitating the space for local and regional leaders to make this world a reality.

We need to do it for our common future. For the people, for the planet, and for the government.

## THE NEED FOR THE PACT

Over the past two years a global pandemic has simultaneously reinforced both the interdependence and the vast separation that exists within and between societies. We are living a change of age, not just a time of changes. New vulnerabilities have emerged to deepen these divides. As devastating as COVID has been, it is overshadowed by the three existential but linked crises that threaten our very survival: the rampant growth of inequalities, and the ecological crises, including the climate emergency and biodiversity loss.

The bold and comprehensive Sustainable Development Goals agreed by national governments in 2015 are already significantly off-track: globally, national governments are increasingly falling behind agreed targets, with potentially catastrophic consequences. The Reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), continue to signal both the nature and likely consequences of our collective failures in reducing emissions and achieving the Net Zero target by 2050, to stabilize our climate, regenerate nature, and avoid the suffering, loss and migration of millions of people, especially in the most vulnerable countries of the Global South such as Small Island Developing States.

Early responses to the Covid pandemic provided a glimpse of a more caring, empathetic impulse in societies around the world. However, it is clear that post-Covid, the world has not moved to the promised new normal – on the contrary, not only has there been a return to business as usual, but even a marked deterioration of our planet and the living conditions of people around the globe.

Reinforced by dramatic setbacks on peace and democracy and entrenched racism and sexism, ageism and ableism, universal human rights have been weakened, removed or denied in too many parts of the world. People have been discriminated against using race, gender, religion, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, age, class and disability, with a rise in hate speech and misinformation often amplified through the unregulated power and anonymity of social media. Continued gender-based inequalities and the



daily and systemic discrimination against women and girls, older persons and persons with disabilities, globally continues to demean our humanity and entrench collective under-achievement and a new distress of the 21st century affects the youth of the world: the anguish towards the future of our planet and eco-anxiety.

Confronted with a closing window of opportunity we believe that it is now time for the local multilateral system to demonstrate that it has come of age and is ready to join national and international partners in bringing about truly transformative action. This is the clear and historic commitment that underlies the Pact for the Future.

The Pact seeks to be part of a global initiative committed with hope, that demonstrates that another way is possible and that, collectively, the resources, intellectual capacity, skills and desire are available in the necessary abundance. What has been in short supply is the courage to challenge orthodoxies, political will and bold leadership.

Against this backdrop, we, local and regional governments around the world are firmly committed to contribute to a sustained and profound transformation of our societies.

Our constituency seeks to deliver real, tangible and constant actions over time, with individual citizens, households and communities playing an active and leading role. While cities - of all sizes - have already demonstrated significant results, reinforcing the notion of systems of cities: the important relationship between cities and their surrounding regions, both being mutually dependent on the well-being of the other, we now urgently need to inspire truly transformational change at scale in all parts of the world. In so doing, we also seek to reinforce the pressing need to replace division and conflict with a new imperative in support of peace.

Globally, all local, regional, and national governments need to redouble their efforts in delivering their commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals, the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the New Urban Agenda in line with human rights treaties. Progress and success will benefit not only today's citizens, but also younger generations and the generations to come.

Through this **Pact for the Future**, UCLG members and the organized constituency of local and regional governments restate their commitment to the power of collective action, empowerment, shared ownership, co-creation, and international cooperation and solidarity: the very cornerstones of harmonious and sustainable societies. Consciously standing on the shoulders of those people who have built the movement over more than a century, we celebrate the **Power of We**, to inspire our vision and deliver our commitments.

The **Power of We** encapsulates both the desire and the method of the municipal movement to contribute to a better, safer, accessible, peaceful and more equal future through our collective voice and agency.

Reaffirming our common humanity, we therefore reject greed, prejudice and division and we choose to place **CARE** at the heart of our Pact for the Future. Care for the human rights of all people and care for the integrity of our planet.

## WE, LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS

**Acknowledge** that the search for never-ending economic growth demands systems of production and consumption that are both destructive and unsustainable. Despite some short-term material benefits and advances, it is now abundantly clear that these systems not only deplete our life-supporting ecosystems but also lead to social exclusion and unprecedented levels of inequality to such an extent that peace, democracy, security and our universal wellbeing are all under threat. Indeed, far from providing for future generations, our current development pathways are concentrating economic, social and political power in the hands of an ever diminishing and unaccountable minority of people and organisations.

**Envisage** a future based on caring, sharing and solidarity, where the search for incessant GDP growth and unsustainable production and consumption is replaced by a universal quest for an ever-improving quality of life for all where the human rights of all are promoted, protected and realised. This can only be achieved by regenerating the planet and respecting the living world that sustains us. A well-informed, critical and empowered citizenship will be the essential partner in navigating the significant changes to daily life that are so urgent and essential, challenging many assumptions in favour of reimagining our common future and realigning local and global relationships. In summary, we need a complete revision of our value systems.

**Commit** to genuinely seek equity and opportunity for all and to foster a new narrative that reflects these values. This means forging new development paradigms that protect the local and global commons, measuring progress through the lives of the poor, excluded and vulnerable populations, and not the rich and privileged. It also means changing our systems - from degenerative to regenerative, and from divisive to distributive – by design.

**Take stock** that in a world that has become predominantly urban, there is a whole network of cities with different densities and sizes which are essential elements of globalisation: they concentrate resources and are attractors of populations, flows, work, creativity, social and cultural innovations. Previously concentrated in a few megacities, the effects of globalisation are now redrawing all kinds of cities. Urban and territorial life is at the heart of social, environmental, and cultural policy issues.

**Assume** our responsibilities in contributing to these challenges. As local and regional governments, we recognise and accept that we have a unique responsibility through our role in regulating and supporting the daily lives of citizens, both public and private, and through proximity which offers direct and daily contact with the lives and concerns of citizens. In co-creating and implementing bold and transformative actions, it is essential that the immediate and ongoing needs of local communities are balanced with achieving the Global Goals. We accept our global responsibilities, recognising the impact of our actions on ecosystems and communities around the world.

**Consider that** enormous and exciting opportunities in developing new forms of governance and decision-making emerge, and that replacing outdated hierarchical and siloed working with a holistic approach that harnesses entire systems is a must. We will harness new technologies to share information and provide space for innovative solutions, using them to systematically improve the quality of life for all and protect digital rights leaving no place and no person behind. For their part, the private sectors and civil society will have a key role to play in promoting a regenerative and distributive economy.

**Recognize** that no actor and no sphere of government can do this alone. Wherever necessary, we commit to exploring wholly new relationships and alliances with other spheres of government based on the respect of the principles of subsidiarity, shared responsibilities and collaborative implementation, as well with international organizations, building upon our mutual strengths and competences.

**Reaffirm** the importance of universal education, especially for all girls, and a free media, freedom of expression, agency and critical thinking in ensuring well-informed and empowered citizens. As local and regional governments, we welcome civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders as essential partners in ensuring progress and the stability of our towns, cities and regions.

**Pledge** to expand and ensure universal access to local and regional services and equal opportunities for all citizens. We acknowledge that this will require transformational policies at all levels to deliver a new paradigm shift on care where collective actions and knowledge are made equally and universally available to all citizens and that respect the rights of humankind and the health of our only planet.



PACT FOR THE FUTURE FOR PEOPLE

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Our Pact is universal and seeks to deliver equal opportunity, fairness and justice for everyone and for every place. We will seek to replace the quest for individual advancement on the back of fellow citizens with the ethos of public service through reciprocal caring and sharing. The pandemic has demonstrated the importance of resizing contemporary life, and has proven how border-centred approaches to human mobility have repeatedly proved both ineffective and unfair. Free citizens will be the main engine of the social, political and economic changes that are essential in realising this Pact – therefore we will continue to stress the importance of a well-informed and empowered citizenship. The bedrock of this citizenship is ensuring that all citizens are empowered to achieve their potential, delivered through universal access to education, culture, and policies informed by a new feminism driven by people. The global feminist municipal movement will be central to ensuring that women and girls are not left behind and for fostering a new way of going about politics. Environments that are healthy, accessible, and institutions that serve all impartially will restore trust and boost hope, solidarity and optimism, liberating our collective imaginations, and instilling a new sense of what is possible at home and for the world. Human development and emancipation, the enrichment of everyone's social capital, are our pole stars in leading the age of transition we are in towards a just and sustainable tomorrow.

**Against this backdrop, the Pact for the Future for People abides by the following commitments:**

1. Guarantee equal rights and opportunities for all and respect and celebrate diversity.
2. Foster universal and equitable access to public services, including housing, health, education and participation in cultural and political life.
3. Promote informed and sustained citizen's participation in public life and decision-making promoting freedom of speech and conscience and artistic expression.
4. Focus on human development with culture, peace, creativity & quality of life at the core.
5. Guarantee decent work and fair pay for all, based on the respect of the principles of subsidiarity, shared responsibilities and collaborative implementation, and entrepreneurship.
6. Promote the role of voluntary associations, and facilitate caring through voluntary activities.
7. Ensure that women and girls are fully empowered to achieve their full potential as citizens and foster a feminist way of going about politics.



8. Contribute to citizens' living in safe, peaceful and violence-free environments, including in domestic settings.
9. Foster open, accessible and verifiable information and data to promote inclusion, education and communication.
10. Respect for planetary health and the well-being of future generations.

## WE, LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS

**Acknowledge** the impact of growing inequalities within and between cities and regions too often resulting from the commodification of most aspects of life. The needs of marginalised communities, especially women, persons with disabilities, older persons and the urban poor, have not been sufficiently addressed, resulting in a sharp acceleration of social exclusion and special fragmentation. Specifically, we have witnessed the return of forced evictions, displacement and dispossession, always focused on the poor and the vulnerable, a widened gender gap and increasing gender-based violence.

**Understand** that to address the roots of inequalities we need to significantly reduce gaps in income, while enhancing the political participation, address accessibility barriers and the discrimination facing marginalized groups.

**Recognise** the universal development agendas and human rights instruments already provide the framework to ensure access to services, people's participation in public life rights, care as an enabler of inclusive environments, and co-creation with our communities. And that development pathways should place human rights at the centre as we reaffirm our commitment to citizenship, suffrage, dignity, decent work and remuneration, and social identity and freedom.

**Pledge** to address the roots of inequality placing gender equality, access to services, and public spaces at the heart of our strategy. We also pledge to actively promote accessibility as a human right and precondition to inclusion, universal housing rights, paying particular attention to the needs of informal settlements by replacing forced evictions with policies that promote inclusion and participation.

**Our vision for the future that we need must facilitate universal access to basic services and the redefinition of essential services by incorporating the right to the city as universal citizenship with renewed sets of cultural rights such as the right to discover, create, share, enjoy and protect the local community's cultural roots, expressions and resources as a building block of peace and wellbeing in all cities and regions. Putting people at the centre in all circumstances and placing science, technologies and artificial intelligence, and entrepreneurship at the service of humanity. Particular attention is needed for cross-border localities that impact the lifestyles of many people in many cities and communities around the world.**



PACT FOR THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY



PACT FOR THE FUTURE FOR PLANET

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It is a sobering fact that, even as the world exceeds its planetary boundaries, billions of people still do not have access to even the most basic services. Such exclusions are a matter of conscious policy choice, and not as a result of lack of resources. Our current systems of consumption and production are both unsustainable and destructive, and are driving ever-increasing injustice and inequality. The Pact for Planet stresses the need to transform our collective relationship with nature, and for local and regional governments to spearhead the development of a new vision for our common future where address climate change, both from a mitigation and adaptation lens, re-analyse the values that shape our understanding as beings, where we think global and act local, and where we develop pathways that are nature-positive and seriously address transactional inequalities. Where we foster proximity and places of creative bubbling as spaces of all kinds that allow us to regenerate livelihoods, and local initiatives.

**Against this backdrop, the Pact for the Future for Planet abides by the following commitments:**

1. Re-engineer urban planning to support more sustainable and just practices for all citizens.
2. Reflect the real and full costs of production in goods and services, and not externalise their costs and/or effects.
3. Foster local economic development policies that foster new indicators based on quality of life and well-being rather than on growth and economic performance and connect systems of cities with their surrounding hinterlands.
4. Empower local communities to play a central role in protecting biodiversity, water, the environment and the planet and recreate local employment, optimise resources, to increase quality of life and protect the environment.
5. Transition to renewable energy systems as a pressing priority to a more sustainable and just future.
6. Foster urban mobility systems that prioritise the effective and affordable movement of all people while protecting the urban environment.
7. Provide essential services accessible to all in proximities with the least amount of travel.
8. Promote sustainable and inclusive food systems managed and improved by all spheres of government promoting access and quality of food, food security and sovereignty, and resilience.
9. Harness the potential of the doughnut economy to transition from destructive to restorative models.
10. Identify mechanisms to redress the historically uneven distribution of environmental benefits and burdens and co-create resilience systems.



## WE, LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS

**Acknowledge** that local and regional governments urgently need to shift from the over-consumption of natural resources to protecting biodiversity, the oceans, land, subsoil and atmosphere. Local and regional governments will play a decisive role in raising awareness and co-creating new patterns of production and consumption.

**Understand** that new approaches are required to balance the needs of the market and the state, while recognising that informed and empowered citizens are the most effective vectors of transformation. However, this is all predicated on the identification and protection of the global commons. Local and regional governments have a decisive role in formulating new policy approaches paying particular attention to the role of intermediary cities within an overall system. To meet address the ecological crises, all levels of government must be enabled to mobilise appropriate financial means.

**Recognise** that current modes of production, consumption are both destructive and totally unsustainable. Faced with the challenge of the climate emergency, environmental degradation and biodiversity depletion, the urgent shift to new forms of production, consumption and daily living are essential to transform the relationship between society, the economy and nature. capacity-building on the application of taxonomies and opportunities of green financial instruments will be key in addressing these crises.

**Pledge** to address the climate, water and biodiversity crises and reinvigorate the economy through sustainable, inclusive, and environmentally-sound models of production and consumption, and foster a fair and equal distribution of the benefits of climate action and resilience building and through proximity as a precious common good to develop another way of daily life with local ecological, economic and social value creation, in accordance with the challenges for our cities and territories.

**Our vision for the future we need transcends business as usual in the transition towards a zero carbon and local resilience and fosters radical change in the building of sustainable, equitable and resilient cities and communities must be the priority. We are committed to developing a vision that conceives these actions for our cities and territories both from an emergency and a long-term perspective considering the rights of nature as our own. Furthermore, the climate crisis cannot be solved without the mobilisation of private capital via equity, public private partnerships or blended financial instruments. To avoid different standards, taxonomies should define clear criteria to facilitate capital inflows in green financial products, higher market liquidity and comparability.**

PACT FOR THE FUTURE FOR GOVERNMENT

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The *Pact for Government and Democracy* calls for redefining governing in Partnership. It seeks to place all citizens and communities at the core of the decision-making. This means promoting a universal quality of life as the essential metric to replace GDP, building peace and prosperity from towns, cities and our regions, ensuring a world of well-informed and empowered citizens that are treated equally and fairly in their diversity beyond jurisdictions, to build a new notion of citizenship that is the building block of a life with dignity and rights for all. It acknowledges that security-first approaches cannot curb the rights and freedoms of our citizens, and places local and regional governments as the space that can bridge safety and liberty. The Pact calls for a renewed democracy that delivers on the needs and rights of citizens. The Pact further calls for a renewed impulse to well-resourced decentralisation and subsidiarity and for an active and informed civic participation.

At all levels, building trust between citizens, institutions and communities, as well as protecting human rights and democratic values are an essential pre-condition to boost our democracies and build a fairer, more inclusive and effective international system. The Pact for Government places local democracy at the heart of action, stressing the importance of representation and participation; inclusivity and empowerment in decision-making instances, the urgent need to restore transparency, honesty and accountability at all levels of government as a means to rebuild a more representative, inclusive and efficient multilateral system. For this to happen we need to ensure the necessary resources and capacity-building to guarantee the meaningful participation of citizens in public life and decision-making. Co-responsibility and active citizenship should be at the centre of democratic governance. Governments can make decisive contributions by enacting clear and consistent policies, ensuring impartial and detached administration and ensuring the consistent application of the rule of law, and the certainty of sanction.

Open and transparent data is essential to promote accountability, as is protecting the space for independent scrutiny of government policies through public examination, debate and discussion.

**Against this backdrop, the Pact for the Future for Government abides by the following commitments:**

1. Promote inclusive, participatory, responsible and accountable multilevel governance leading to global action.  
Ensure transparent budgeting to facilitate balanced revenue generation and equitable pricing for all services and ensure that government policy balances the long-term needs of citizens and planet.

3. Protect and promote all public institutions, ensure the integrity of the justice system, and ensure equal access for all citizens.
4. Strengthen public institutions to enhance the protection of our global commons and provision of public goods.
5. Involve the scientific-community, civil society and local communities in the process of policy and decision making.
6. Promote truthful independent and accountable information sources to combat the spread of misinformation which fuels polarization and a widening cultural divide, notably in the digital sphere and counter hate speech, threats and violence.
7. Call for a feminist leadership and power sharing at all levels of government.
8. Strengthen local finance and rethink fiscal architecture to ensure secure revenue streams for improved planning and investment at the local level.
9. Contribute to the strengthening of multilateralism through a meaningful engagement in global agendas and representation in decision-making bodies.
10. Pivot the role of local and regional governments in regards to the future of work, beyond legislation and job provision, acknowledging the notion of time as a currency and its lack of availability as a form of exclusion that must be addressed.

## WE, LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENT LEADERS

**Acknowledge** the lack of trust between citizens and institutions called to serve them and guarantee their rights, which negatively impacts both governance and mainstream institutions alike. That there is a profound need to creatively renew democratic practices, systems and institutions to foster co-responsibility, social control over public decisions, so they are better equipped to respond to the needs and aspirations of citizens. That, in this foundational moment, renewing democracy and citizenship largely depends on the impartial and consistent application of the rule of law. A reformed multilevel governance will need to be created, reflecting a different set of priorities that respond to the aspirations of communities and the needs of the planet.

**Understand** that local and regional levels of government have a critical role to play in shaping more participatory, accountable and transparent systems of governance, mixing participatory mechanisms according to the different needs and aspirations of local communities, to sustain a systemic, place-based and long-term democratic approach.

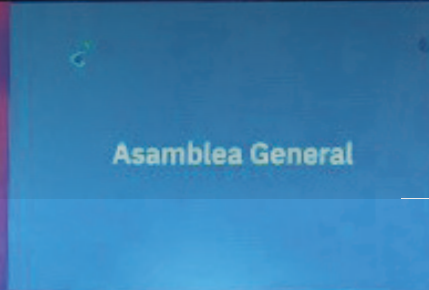


**Recognise** that the process of renewing our democratic institutions needs to be purposefully co-created with citizens, social movements, civil society and the private sectors as partners.

**Pledge** that we will endeavour to strengthen and retool democracies and citizenship, and contribute to the much-needed reform of the international governance architecture. We commit to make local and regional institutions more efficient, responsive and caring to meet the needs and reassert the rights of its citizens through the crafting of a new value-based and rights-driven social contract. We further pledge to pursue an open, constructive and sustained structural dialogue with national governments to ensure joined-up delivery for all citizens, and communities. We commit to the development of an interurban system of small, intermediary and large cities and metropolises, strengthening the urban-rural continuum and granting that this system integrates globalization while enhancing connections with the respective local and territorial areas, to ensure that the next generations benefit from placing local democracy at the centre of sustainable development. We further commit to actively contribute to the revitalisation of the multilateral system by having a creative, constructive and influential voice in the United Nations' reform process and by providing a substantive contribution to key international summits and fora, including the 2023 SDG Summit, the Summit of the Future in 2024 and the World Social Summit in 2025.

**Our vision for the future we need includes people, rights and care-centred democracies built on the power of citizens that allow for constructive and mutually beneficial cooperation and solidarity among all spheres of government. A central role of local and regional governments for a renewed, networked and efficient multilateral system. A multilateralist system that accepts the fact that global challenges can only be dealt with by dealing with local challenges and that in turn local challenges depend on global challenges. An inclusive system that takes into account the multitude of systems of cities and governance that exist to ensure all voices and all spheres of government are included within decision-making processes.**

PACT FOR THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY



## ASPIRATIONS OF THE PACT

Throughout history, towns, cities and regions have always thrived through the creativity, energy and ingenuity of all people shaping our streets, culture and society. History shows the important links between the ongoing consent of the governed and the legitimacy and strength of the government.

Through this Pact for the Future we affirm that local and regional governments embrace their critical role and responsibility to promote a more equitable and sustainable quality of life for citizens and communities alike, protecting their rights to global and local common goods while protecting the planet for future generations.

We particularly highlight the central importance of a transformed relationship with nature and the planet, in which well-informed and empowered citizens are supported by responsive and accountable governments, and where humans and nature thrive in balance, including by integrating nature into urban ecosystems and breaking the binary between urban and natural settings. These relationships will prosper to the extent that they are built on mutual respect and trust. Such respect and trust will allow cities to capitalise on local realities, relationships and proximities that are simultaneously geographical, temporal, social, emotional, cultural and digital, while allowing for the peaceful resolution of differences, competing priorities and conflicts. This Pact provides a pathway to realise the universal Right to the City for all. This right welcomes and builds upon the diversity that is the very strength of communities, promoting open dialogue, education and a culture of caring and sharing.

Driven by this Pact, we reaffirm the commitment of our constituency of local and regional governments to multilateralism and the centrality of international cooperation and solidarity and our commitment to equality, empathy and solidarity. At the centre is the recognition that citizenship contains both rights and responsibilities, based on the principles of responsibility, equity, transgenerational and intergenerational solidarity, dignity, generational non-discrimination and sustainability of life.

We will strive to become a Global Feminist Municipal Movement to play a decisive role in placing care at the centre, not only in our programme, but also provide inspiration and leadership for the implementation of the United Nations Our Common Agenda. Furthermore, it is upon the solid ground of gender equality and democracy that we will build our future.

To pursue these goals, during the last few years, UCLG has purposefully constructed an inclusive and global platform, galvanising its membership to establish strategic partnerships that play a central role in driving the Pact for the Future. We will therefore pursue the objectives of this Pact with our partners in the Global Task Force, through which the unified and global voice of local and regional government networks is most effectively mobilised.

We will endeavour for this Pact to speak directly to the international development agendas beyond 2030, providing the contribution of our organised constituency to the UN Summit of the Future.



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