

KEY DECISIONS

MEETINGS OF THE UCLG GOVERNING BODIES

ON THE OCCASION OF THE UCLG WORLD COUNCIL
23-26 NOVEMBER 2014, HAIKOU

The UCLG Statutory Bodies, including the Executive Bureau, the World Council, and some Committees and Working Groups, met from 23 to 26 November 2014 in Haikou, China.

The UCLG World Council gathered around 400 participants from approximately 49 countries, as well as representatives from international organizations. The meetings were held in parallel with the Asian Mayors Forum and Haikou Sister City Summit. An important delegation also participated in the Second Edition of the Guangzhou Award that took place from 27 to 28 November, coinciding with the 2014 China International Friendship Cities Conference.

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

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I. POLICY DECISIONS

1. Strategic Partnership with the European Union

1. As a result of the structured dialogue with the European Commission over the past few years and the Communication on Strengthening Local Authorities in 2013, UCLG has been recognized as the key institution representing local and regional authorities.
2. Discussions have taken place throughout the year that will culminate in the signing of a Strategic Partnership between both institutions, aiming to support UCLG's operations in the coming years.
3. Members took note of the objective of the partnership and celebrated the important step forward that this entailed, not only in terms of the recognition of the World Organization and its Sections, but also in relation to the growing importance afforded to local governments in the development agenda of the European Union.
4. Members stressed the great responsibility that was attached to this partnership and the need to ensure that the additional financial support would be utilized to maximize the existing potential of the Organization while ensuring the consolidation of its strategic objectives. It was further stressed that all parts of the network would need to work together more closely and contribute to achieving the expected results, which should crystallize in a sound legacy for the Organization.

Decisions:

- **Members welcomed the agreement and agreed to its signature.**
- **Members encouraged all parts of the network to contribute to achieving the shared objectives, and emphasized that the agreement should be a transformational programme and not simply a sum of projects.**

2. Local and Regional Governments in the International Agenda

5. The international community is currently developing a new global agenda for Post-2015 that presents a unique opportunity. The new development framework will shift from an agenda that focuses on the poorest countries to become one that is universal, transformative and inclusive.
6. This has been described by many as a once in a generation chance to actually shape the collective future, building on the shared values gathered in the UN Charter and its flagship policies. This transformative agenda will have to take into account new ways of managing our common public goods and should also address the need for the global governance system to include other actors in decision making.
7. In this context, UCLG, its members and partners will need to intensify their presence in international processes like never before, and provide strong proposals concerning local views on critical global issues.

2.1 Post-2015 and Habitat III

8. The Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments for Post-2015 Agenda and towards Habitat III, facilitated by UCLG, has consolidated its position as a visible and strong counterpart to development partners. It has also gained recognition among local and regional government networks, which has significantly increased participation and strengthened the delegations taking part in international negotiations throughout 2014.
9. Following the positive experiences of 2013, activities in New York were intensified throughout 2014, with presence at the UN headquarters on an almost monthly basis.

10. Members acknowledged the important progress made and encouraged the UCLG Presidency to continue working in this direction, ensuring political presence at relevant events.
11. Members further expressed concern about the role that local governments will have in the Habitat III process. They recalled the high expectations linked to this conference and stressed the need to ensure that the achievements and recognition gained at Habitat II would be preserved and further expanded.
12. Members recalled that local government is and should be recognized as a sphere of government, and that this very notion should be at the core of our advocacy towards Habitat III.
13. The Executive Bureau further reiterated the commitment to organize the Second World Assembly of Cities and Local Authorities on the occasion of the Habitat III Conference, which is envisaged to take place in Quito in 2016.

Decisions:

- **Mandated the World Secretariat to continue facilitating the Global Taskforce and encouraged the UCLG Presidency to continue playing an active role in advocacy efforts.**
- **Mandated the Presidency to continue advocating for the acknowledgement of local governments as a governmental stakeholder in the international processes and to highlight this in our advocacy efforts.**
- **The Executive Bureau further mandated UCLG to call the Second Assembly of Cities and Local Governments on the occasion of Habitat III, as the main vehicle to provide inputs from the constituency to the process.**
- **Members requested the Presidency to ensure that the dates of the UCLG World Congress would be back-to-back with the UN Conference in order to ensure an important delegation at Habitat III.**

2.2 Financing for Development

14. The third International Conference on Financing for Development will take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 13 to 16 July 2015. The outcomes will contribute to the current discussions on the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda and the related Summit planned for September.
15. The issue of financing is key for local and regional governments – who have now been engaged in decentralized cooperation and the debates on official development assistance (ODA) for several years – in order to ensure they will have the capacity to implement their responsibilities as outlined in the sustainable development agenda.
16. There was a general consensus among members that the outcomes of this conference will be instrumental for the implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda, and therefore active participation in the preparatory process would be desirable.

Decisions:

- **The World Secretariat, with the support of the Committee on Local Finance, will ensure representation in the preparatory process.**
- **Political representatives were called to take part in delegations that will be organized throughout the year.**

2.3 The Climate Negotiations

17. The climate negotiations are making a strong comeback on the international scene and mobilizing all actors. COP 21, which will take place in Paris in December 2015, comes

with high expectations as key agreements and commitments from States should be adopted during the Conference.

18. The UN Secretary General decided to give a strong push to the climate file by organizing a Climate Summit, outside of the climate negotiations framework, on 23 September. On this occasion, ICLEI, C40 and UCLG, under the patronage of the Special Envoy on Climate, Michael Bloomberg, launched the Compact of Mayors; a reporting platform for cities and local governments to display their climate actions.
19. Members stressed the relevance of organizing the UCLG World Council in Paris next year in conjunction with COP 21. The gathering in Paris will be an unprecedented opportunity to mobilize sub-national governments and make our voices heard together, united by UCLG.
20. Members further welcomed the initiative of the Rhône-Alpes region to host the Rhône-Alpes Summit on Climate and Territories on 1-2 July, and emphasized the need to link the results of these deliberations to the events in Paris.

Decisions:

- **Ensure a strong presence at the World Council on the occasion of COP 21 and mobilization for the Summit in Lyon.**
- **Promote adherence to the Compact of Mayors.**

2.4 Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Policy

21. The 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction will take place in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015. A new Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA2) for the next ten years will be drawn up on this occasion.
22. Building on its commitment to support local governments to anticipate and face disasters, UCLG has taken on the role of facilitating the participation of local and regional governments in this process.
23. Members recalled that although this year saw the celebration of the 10th anniversary of UCLG, it also marked a more tragic commemoration: that of the 10th anniversary of the tsunami which devastated many countries in Asia. It was highlighted on this occasion that UCLG had just agreed to launch its Taskforce on Disaster Response, which will be actively involved in the preparations towards the Sendai Conference.

Decisions:

- **Mandated the World Secretariat to work closely with the Taskforce on Disaster Response in the follow up to the international process on Risk Reduction and Resilience.**
- **Ratified the importance of resilience policies for UCLG members and called for a strong representation of local governments at the Conference in Sendai.**

2.5 The World Water Forum

24. Access to water and the role of local governments in the management of this public good has been at the top of UCLG's agenda since its inception. UCLG has traditionally played a key role in bringing the voice of local governments to the World Water Forum.
25. The recognition of access to water as a human right by the United Nations and the inclusion of a specific Sustainable Development Goal (Goal 6) bring significant relevance to this area of work within the international agenda for 2015.
26. The 7th World Water Forum will take place on 12-17 April in Daegu-Gyeongbuk, Korea, where the inputs of local and regional governments will build on the Istanbul

Consensus. Members recalled that UCLG will be greatly involved in the preparation and coordination of the Conference. The Forum will bring together various stakeholders to identify policies and strategies on political and technical levels.

Decision:

- **The Istanbul Consensus should be promoted and UCLG should facilitate the representation of local governments in the 7th World Water Forum.**

2.6 World Conference on Women – Beijing+20

27. In 2015, it will be 20 years since the Platform for Action was adopted at the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China. This Conference, which is taking place in a non-negotiating environment, should provide an overview of the commitments and concrete actions undertaken, and ensure renewed engagements around these activities.
28. UCLG will ensure the mobilization of its membership through its Standing Committee on Gender Equality and promote participation in both national consultations and the key international events, in cooperation with UN Women and the Huairou Commission.
29. Members of the Standing Committee on Gender Equality also stressed the importance of taking into account the gender perspective within the very language and documents used and produced by UCLG.
30. They further highlighted the need to encourage the participation of women in aspects of the work of the Organization, both within its Statutory Bodies and beyond, in the Post-2015 Agenda.

Decisions:

- **The achievements of the Beijing Conference and expectations should be reflected in UCLG policy inputs for the Post-2015 process.**
- **The Standing Committee will ensure the representation of local elected women in the Beijing+20 Conference.**

2.7 The Local and Regional Governments Agenda towards Habitat III

31. The Executive Bureau in Lyon (June 2013) mandated the World Secretariat to draw up a *Global Agenda of Local and Regional Governments for the 21st Century* to contribute to Habitat III. This initiative should contribute to the efforts of the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments for the Post-2015 Agenda and towards Habitat III, and the preparatory work for the next *UCLG Global Report on Local Democracy and Decentralization* (GOLD IV).
32. As part of this process, the World Secretariat, in collaboration with various UCLG Committees, has developed an initial outline of the main points to cover (and develop further) for this future Global Agenda.
33. A narrative was shared with members to stimulate debate on: whether these areas were the key dimensions to build a compelling “story” for local and regional governments to tell to the world; whether any issues were missing or unclear; and whether the approach taken on each issue was appropriate or should be reformulated. It is a live, working document, open to comments, criticism and contributions.
34. Members agreed that the Agenda should avoid too many sectorial approaches and should address more cross-cutting issues in order to produce more appealing political narratives with recommendations.

Decisions:

- **Members celebrated the first draft that could structure the Global Agenda of Local and Regional Governments for Habitat III.**
- **They agreed to get involved in the development of the agenda, in coordination with the World Secretariat.**
- **Consultations will be organized throughout 2015 to ensure that the narrative is constructed from the views of the membership.**

3. UCLG Cooperation and Learning Agenda

35. Since its inception, one of the core mandates of UCLG, and of the Municipal Movement itself, has been the promotion of exchanges and learning among members. Over the past decade, UCLG membership has continued to invest important resources in city-to-city cooperation. Building on the experiences accumulated by members, the World Organization has fostered South-South peer-to-peer collaborations and learning opportunities.
36. It is through this hands-on experience that UCLG envisages the renewal of its role as a learning organization; identifying needs and facilitating the increasing involvement of the membership in the global South to define learning agendas.
37. Members welcomed the notion of developing a learning agenda and emphasized the need to build on existing initiatives such as the CIB. It was further mentioned that while South-South exchanges should be stimulated, the learning agenda should be a global effort by the membership as a whole, and should acknowledge the historical experience of the Organization.

Decisions:

- **A clear strategy towards the development of a learning agenda will be developed in 2015.**
- **Part of the financial injection, as well as the partnership opportunities created by the agreement with the European Union, will be put to this service.**

4. Work Plan for 2015

38. 2015 will be the first year of the implementation of an unprecedented Strategic Partnership with the European Union, which will enable joint work on specific political priorities in line with UCLG's multi-annual strategy and EU Policy on Local Authorities in Development. The partnership will also provide an important temporary financial injection to the Organization, but it will first and foremost recognize UCLG as the key generalist worldwide organization, with a monopoly position in representing local and regional governments internationally.
39. The Secretary General presented an overview of the state of the Organization and the opportunities and challenges ahead.
40. Members welcomed the fact that we are facing these unprecedented opportunities related to the new development agenda with renewed financial possibilities, stability in terms of membership and consolidated instruments, such as the Global Taskforce, the GOLD Report and the various Committees and Working Groups. However, the Organization will need to make additional efforts to maintain the engagement of the membership, attract new members and consolidate knowledge and learning systems. This is work that will need to be initiated, in many cases, by the World and Regional Secretariats, but which will also require strong political leadership and guidance.
41. Members again emphasized that the temporary funds should be aimed at strengthening the current network. They should create leverage and build on existing efforts. They

should generate a legacy in the World Organization and allow us to evolve towards a more modern and flexible structure, as envisaged in the multi-annual strategy.

42. Members discussed the actions proposed and agreed on their relevance. However, they stressed that UCLG remains an Organization with high aspirations and reduced resources. They highlighted the need to ensure continued commitment from members, both financially and politically, to contribute to the work of the World Organization.
43. The need to strengthen the work on Gender and find additional resources, as well as the importance of supporting the work of the existing Committees, were highlighted in different interventions.

Decisions:

- **Members adopted the 2015 Work Plan as presented.**
- **Mandated the Secretariat to organize a Retreat of UCLG Secretariats, Committees and key partners in February (the week commencing 9 February was identified as a possible date) in order to further define the synergies between the actions in different parts of the network.**

5. Committees and Working Groups

44. The Executive Bureau in Liverpool in June 2014 agreed with the recommendations of the Committee on Statutory Affairs to improve the organizational effectiveness of UCLG and to increase members' and leaders' ownership of UCLG activities and decisions through consultations.
45. It was proposed to maintain the current number of Committees and Working Groups in the World Organization, meaning that UCLG will include 18 Committees and Working Groups from 2015 to 2016. It will also include one Community of Practice that will build on the work of the Guangzhou Award.

Decisions:

- **Members took note of the recent evolution of UCLG Committees and Working Groups.**
- **They agreed with the list of Committees and Working Groups attached in Annex 1.**
- **They encouraged Committees and Working Groups to ensure that the work developed was in line with the strategic agenda of the World Organization.**

6. The Culture Summit

46. Culture has been at the heart of UCLG's agenda since its inception, as demonstrated in the adoption of the Agenda 21 for culture (May 2004) and the Policy Statement "Culture: Fourth Pillar of Sustainable Development" (November 2010), as well as the inclusion of culture in UCLG's advocacy efforts related to the Post-2015 Agenda, including the activities of the Global Taskforce.
47. UCLG has supported the vision of its Committee on Culture to prepare a new document on culture and local sustainable development (with the provisional name "Culture 21: Actions") which: (a) builds on the success of the Agenda 21 for culture; (b) updates its recommendations, with a clearer orientation towards the implementation of policies; and (c) will be used in the period 2015-2019 to promote intelligence and networking. It includes a selection of good practices and promotes exchanges, peer-reviews and the use of expertise.
48. "Culture 21: Actions" will be approved at the UCLG Culture Summit, hosted by the city of Bilbao, Spain, on 18-20 March 2015.

Decisions:

- **Members were invited to provide feedback on the draft "Culture 21: Actions".**
- **They were also encouraged to develop sound cultural policies and mandate the Committee on Culture and the World Secretariat to facilitate this.**
- **Finally, members were warmly invited to participate in the Summit in Bilbao.**

II. STATUTORY ISSUES

1. Co-Presidency Elections

49. Following the decision of the Committee on Statutory Affairs in Liverpool to acknowledge the resignation of Augusto Barrera as Co-President of UCLG and to open a call for Co-Presidency, encouraging candidatures from the Latin American region, a call was opened at the end of June 2014.
50. One candidature was received, fulfilling all criteria:
Mauricio Rodas, Mayor of Quito, Ecuador
51. Members welcomed the video message of Mayor Rodas, which expressed his commitment to continue contributing to the UCLG agenda, in particular in view of the Habitat III Conference which is expected to take place in Quito.
52. Members further emphasized the importance of strengthening the presence of Latin American members in UCLG and expressed the hope that although the election was not a regional one, the inclusion of Mayor Rodas in the Presidency team would contribute to greater involvement and participation from members from that region.
53. It was further requested that Mayor Rodas take a proactive role in the preparatory process of the inputs of local governments in Habitat III and actively contribute to the organization of the Second World Assembly of Cities and Local Governments, as well as facilitate the presence of local governments in Quito during the Habitat III Conference.

Decision:

- **The World Council elected Mayor Rodas as Co-President of UCLG.**

2. Renewal of the Secretary General

54. The President announced in Liverpool that in view of the contract of the Secretary General coming to an end on 31 August, he deemed it desirable to renew the current contract until Haikou and to open a process for renewal. The issue was referred to the Committee on Statutory Affairs, as these types of issues have been included in its Terms of Reference since 2011. The Committee was asked to recommend a way forward to the Executive Bureau.
55. The Secretary General presented a report to the Committee on Statutory Affairs on 24 November and made a presentation to the World Council on 26 November, providing information on his term of office.
56. Members welcomed the report and commended the Secretary General and his team for the work done. They expressed support for the continuation of the Secretary General and encouraged him to lead the vision presented towards achieving a stronger network with sound political participation, international visibility and increased learning opportunities.

Decision:

- **The Executive Bureau agreed to renew the mandate of the Secretary General for three more years.**

3. Composition of the Financial Management Committee

57. The Executive Bureau in Rabat agreed to the recommendation of the outgoing Treasurer and Presidency to revise the composition of the Financial Management Committee to reflect the evolutions that have taken place within the World Organization, and in order to enhance participation.
58. Initial discussions took place in Liverpool and it was proposed that a final decision on the composition of the Committee would be taken in Haikou.
59. The Committee on Statutory Affairs examined two possible options. Upon its creation, it was decided that the Financial Management Committee would be made up of 12 representatives from those members paying the highest membership fees, and the eight Secretaries General of the Regional Sections and Metropolis would be invited by right. The breakdown agreed upon only includes representation from Europe and Africa.
60. The first option proposed was an additional list of six members that reflect the diversity of the membership while emphasizing the need to introduce direct members in the Statutory Bodies and include a regional authority, with a total of 13 members. The second option built on the first one and included some members that have been historically active in the World Organization, and whose contributions to the Financial Management Committee over the last ten years have been instrumental. It further presented additions that aimed to achieve a better regional balance and include direct members.

Decisions:

- **The Committee reached the conclusion that in order to stimulate greater involvement from members, ensure diversity and continuity, a broader composition of the Committee was desirable.**
- **The composition of the Financial Management Committee was agreed as per the list attached in Annex 2.**

4. Report of the Financial Management Committee

61. The Treasurer of UCLG presented the report of the Financial Management Committee, which met on 23 November and conveyed its recommendations to the Executive Bureau on 25 November. The Executive Bureau proposed the adoption of the two decisions below to the World Council.

Approval of accounts for the year 2013

62. The 2013 accounts were verified by the Financial Management Committee in Liverpool, who received all detailed information concerning the implementation of the 2013 budget. These accounts were presented to the Executive Bureau in Liverpool in June, along with the auditor's report, which was presented without reservations.
63. The 2013 accounts were closed with a surplus of €20,941.61.
64. The Executive Bureau in Liverpool approved the accounts for 2013 and the proposal on the allocation of the surplus. The Bureau decided to recommend the approval of the accounts to the World Council and to grant final discharge to the Presidency, Treasurer and Secretary General for the year 2013.

Draft budget for 2015

65. The Executive Bureau also approved the draft budget for 2015, following the recommendations of the Financial Management Committee.

66. As discussed several times during the statutory meetings in Haikou, the operating grant from the European Commission is of fundamental importance to the 2015 budget. However, two significant items of the budget must be emphasized:
- The 2015 budget ensures that UCLG will continue to be an Organization based on its members, since the general budget of UCLG, which is financed by the contributions of its members, will be maintained.
 - The operating grant will be used to improve and expand the activities outlined in the action plan.

Decisions:

- **Members took note of the Treasurer's report and the recommendations of the Executive Bureau.**
- **They noted the auditors' report and approved the accounts for 2013, as well as the allocation of the result.**
- **They gave final discharge to the Presidency, the Treasurer and the Secretary General for 2013.**
- **Finally, members approved the draft budget for 2015.**

5. Renewal of UCLG Governing Bodies

67. The members of the Committee on Statutory Affairs took note of the changes in nominations due to elections in the different countries.
68. The World Secretariat is currently updating the nominations agreed in Haikou and consulting with the Sections. Updated lists will be shared as soon as possible following the consultations.
69. The Committee on Statutory Affairs noted the request by the Standing Committee on Gender Equality that called to ensure that the modest 20% gender quota was met within the Governing Bodies. The decision to appoint women caucuses in those Sections that did not meet the quota was recalled. At present, only Metropolis, Europe and North America meet this requirement. The Committee requested the Standing Committee on Gender Equality to make concrete proposals to be ratified in Porto Alegre.
70. A point of order was made in relation to the need to ensure that political representatives take the floor at the formal meetings of the Governing Bodies. The participation of politicians is crucial if the legitimacy of UCLG is to be preserved.

Decisions:

- **Following the recommendation of the Committee on Statutory Affairs, the Executive Bureau agreed on the composition of the UCLG Governing Bodies and called for women caucuses in the regions that do not meet the required quota, that is to say: Latin America, Africa, MEWA, Eurasia and ASPAC.**
- **An item on how to increase the active participation of political representatives is to be included in the agenda of the Committee on Statutory Affairs.**

6. Membership Issues

71. According to the Terms of Reference of the Committee on Statutory Affairs, membership requests and related information are to be presented to the Committee for recommendation to the Executive Bureau.

Decision:

- **The Committee on Statutory Affairs considered the membership requests and approved the list attached in Annex 3.**

III. SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

1. On Ebola

72. At the proposal of the African Section, the World Council adopted a resolution expressing the solidarity of our Organization with the local authorities suffering from the Ebola pandemic, and called on members to demonstrate their active solidarity with affected populations.

2. On the Year of International Solidarity with the Palestinian People

73. The World Council further recalled that the United Nations declared 2014 the International Year of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. Given this, it was also proposed that the World Council adopt a resolution to show the commitment of our Organization to join these commemorations, and to express our solidarity with local authorities and the people of Palestine.