



GLOBAL TASKFORCE
OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS
FOR **POST-2015** DEVELOPMENT AGENDA
TOWARDS **HABITAT III**

Briefing on Habitat III Conference

**Towards the Second World Assembly
of Local and Regional Authorities:
Second preparatory meeting: 14-16 April,
Nairobi, Kenya**

I. Habitat III Conference – Background

The United Nations General Assembly will convene a third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) that will take place in Quito, Ecuador, during the week of 17 October 2016. The main objective of the conference is to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urban development, focusing on the implementation of a “New Urban Agenda”.

This conference will assess the Habitat II commitments from Istanbul in 1996, which was a significant moment for the movement of local and regional authorities. The Conference will offer the first global platform after the adoption of the new Sustainable Development Goals and provides an opportunity to discuss the challenges that the urban dimension brings to the implementation and achievement of the new Goals.

Habitat III should see the acknowledgement of local authorities as full partners in shaping the global agenda in an increasingly urbanizing world. It will also be the time to call for changes to governance in those agencies dealing directly with local government matters. **Local and regional authorities will be actively involved in the consultation process and will organize the *second World Assembly of Local and Regional Authorities*.**

Reference resources can be found on the official website:

<http://unhabitat.org/habitat-iii/>

II. Getting ready for the second PrepCom – On the way to the second World Assembly of Local and Regional Authorities in 2016

PrepCom II will take place in Nairobi, Kenya from 14 to 16 April.

It will be followed by the 25th Governing Council of UN-Habitat (17-23 April), also in Nairobi.

As the GTF has repeatedly expressed, the development agenda should be a single and integrated one. Therefore, the Global Taskforce is following all international processes and feeds the local government perspective into all of them.

Key moments between now and June

- **Preparatory meeting of the Global Taskforce in Brussels, 16 March**, back-to-back with the third European Union Policy Forum on Development (17-18 March). In this meeting a draft statement and roadmap towards the second World Assembly of Local and Regional Authorities will be discussed.
- **ICLEI Congress in Seoul on 8-10 April** will gather inputs from a sustainability perspective.
- **Side event on Local Finance** during the Hearings of Financing for Development on 10 April in New York, which will provide key messages from local governments to the FfD process in preparation for the Conference in Addis Ababa in July.
- **Local and Regional Governments Days in Nairobi, 12 and 13 April**, to prepare the participation of the local and regional authorities delegation, key messages and advocacy strategy. Logistical information will be sent soon.
 - **Side event of the Global Taskforce proposed** for 14 April at lunchtime (precise content and speakers to be determined).
 - **Joint side event with Cities Alliance:** "The role of partnerships in the implementation of the new urban agenda: Exploring how the joint action of national governments, local governments and organised civil society can make cities more inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable". Date and time will be confirmed at a later stage.
- **UCLG Executive Bureau in Porto Alegre, Brazil, 10-12 June**, where a Latin American vision of the new development and urban agenda will be discussed as an input for the GTF's work.
- **CLGF Biennial Conference in Gaborone, Botswana, 15-19 June** will allow members of the GTF to contact national governments and other strategic partners in the Post-2015 process, as well disseminate inputs resulting from the PrepCom.

As part of the preparatory process for Habitat III, **regional and thematic meetings** will be organized worldwide. All information can be found [here](#).

For action

The registration process will start soon. **We invite you to start identifying your representatives for these meetings and send us the form attached at your earliest convenience.**

III. Recalling our ambitions

Capitalizing on efforts

Local and regional government leaders and their global organizations gathered in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments for

Post-2015 Development Agenda and towards Habitat III, are working together in order to build a joint strategy to contribute to the international policymaking debates towards Habitat III.

The Global Taskforce, facilitated by UCLG, offers its capacity to convene local and regional authorities and global representation before the UN, as well as the capacity to forge strategic partnerships to facilitate worldwide consultations among the key networks of sub-national governments.

The new Habitat agenda will need to pay close attention to who needs to be empowered and included in decision-making at all levels.

The Global Taskforce, together with the UN and the international community, will work on the definition of this new Habitat agenda, which will need to distance itself from the dichotomy of rural versus urban. It will need to put cohesion among territories at its forefront, acknowledging the important metropolization processes that are currently taking place.

Although the partnership with local authorities and their organizations has made important progress in recent years, collaboration is still partial and restricted to specific areas (global advocacy); it is more limited in operational programmes. The enhancement of the strategic partnership promised in Habitat II has yet to be developed.

The main weakness of the Habitat II agenda was the unclear “means of implementation”. The commitment of Habitat II to support local governments and strengthen local capacities to develop “sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world” has certainly permitted some progress, but it failed to achieve mass support or to fully mobilize local capacities and potentials.

The massive backlogs in housing, basic services and urban infrastructure require more decisive policies and investments by the state and local authorities, and closer cooperation between local authorities and other levels of government. **Effective multi-level and multi-stakeholder governance requires appropriate institutional and legal frameworks that are guided by the principle of subsidiarity, and that clearly define the roles, responsibilities and resources of all levels of government.**