

First Session of the 2nd World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments

New York City, May 15

On the afternoon of May 15, local government leaders and networks from around the world will gather in New York for the first session of the Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments, convened by the Global Taskforce just before the Habitat III Hearings for Local Authorities on May 16-17.

What is the Global Taskforce?

The Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments is a coordination mechanism set up in 2013 and facilitated by UCLG. It brings together the major international networks of local governments to undertake joint advocacy relating to international policy processes, particularly the climate change agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals and Habitat III.

You can more information about the GTF and our activities here: www.gtf2016.org

And follow us on twitter: @gtf2016

What is the Second World Assembly?

The Second World Assembly is the mechanism through which the local and regional government constituency will make its joint inputs to the Habitat III process. The Habitat III process will result in the adoption of the **New Urban Agenda** in Quito in October 2016. The New Urban Agenda will make recommendations to guide urban development policy across the world for the coming decades.

The Second World Assembly is a **three-part process, convened by the Global Taskforce**, to be held over the course of 2016.

- ▶ First Session: New York on May 15 afternoon
- ▶ Second Session: Bogota on October 14 or 15 (tbc)
- ▶ Final Session: Quito on October 16 (back-to-back with the Habitat III Conference)

First Session of the 2nd World Assembly, May 15, New York

The session in New York will allow the World Assembly to provide feedback to the Zero Draft that will have been released and prepare for the Local Authority Hearings of Habitat III to be held the following two days.

How to participate in the First Session of the 2nd World Assembly

Participants can register through the international associations of local governments that form part of the GTF. The networks will disseminate the information among their members and send nominations to globaltaskforce@uclg.org. The expected profiles are local elected representatives and high-level political leaders.





Habitat III Hearings for Local Authorities

May 16-17, UN Headquarters, New York

Resolution of the General Assembly on Habitat III participation modalities

In December 2015, the General Assembly adopted Resolution A/RES/70/210, which contains rules on the participation of local authorities and other stakeholders in the Habitat III process.

The text of the Resolution acknowledges the organization of the second World Assembly of Local and Regional Authorities (page 4). It also invites Local Authorities to “exchange views with countries on the zero draft of the outcome document of Habitat III during “Informal Hearings” and includes a specific Rule (rule 64) regarding the participation of representatives of local authorities.

Local Authority Hearings

The Local Authority Hearings, convened by the UN, are the first UN consultative process to recognize and treat sub-national governments as a specific constituency. This represents an important step forward for the visibility and influence of local and regional governments at international level.

The Hearings will allow local government representatives to give feedback on the **Zero Draft** of the New Urban Agenda in advance of PrepCom3 in Surabaya, Indonesia from July 25-27.

Political messages for the Local Authority Hearings:

The Global Taskforce will call for the Agenda to recover the spirit of the last Habitat Conference in Istanbul by reinforcing **decentralization**. It will also place an emphasis on the need to link the Agenda to the **2030 Agenda**, and will reiterate its call for a **seat at the global table** for local governments.

How to participate in the Local Authority Hearings:

Global Taskforce networks should send the names of nominated political representatives to globaltaskforce@uclg.org by **March 21**.

We will also need a short biography (10 lines) and a picture for each delegate. Please also provide information on topic that they would like to focus on.

More information might be requested at a later stage by the UN, for registration and accreditation are held by them.

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GOVERNMENTS

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