The 2013 World Summit
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Welcome to the 2013 World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders!

The city of Rabat is preparing to host the second World Summit of local and regional leaders, and the 4th Congress of our World Organisation, from 1st to 4th October 2013. This event coincides with the one hundredth anniversary of the international municipal movement, and we hope that it will be an opportunity for sharing and exchange between Africa and the rest of the world.

Owing to the high tension of the current global context, marked by the economic crisis and the reduced resources at our disposal, we are pushed to imagine new ways to promote the development of our territories and ensure solidarity and sustainability. With this aim in mind, the Congress will hold debates on fostering wellbeing, managing diversity, solidarity between territories, and shaping the urban future.

The Congress in Rabat will allow local and regional elected representatives, experts, our institutional partners, and other participants, to take part in the work that will be launched on the future of the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) Post-2015 and the definition of a new world urban agenda in the framework of Habitat III in 2016.

In July 2012, UNESCO included the city of Rabat in its List of World Heritage. In true honor of this status, the Moroccan capital will welcome you with its traditional spirit of hospitality.

We look forward to welcoming you in high numbers at this gathering of our organization in Africa.
Kadir Topbaş  
Mayor of Istanbul Municipality, Turkey  
President of UCLG Africa

Fathallah Oualalou  
Mayor of Rabat, Morocco  
Vice-President for UCLG Northern Africa

Documents

- [The World Summit in numbers](#)
- [Newsletter 1st October 2013 UCLG World Congress of Local and Regional Leaders](#)
- [Newsletter 2nd October 2013 World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders](#)
- [Newsletter 3rd October 2013 World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders](#)
- [Newsletter 4th October 2013 World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders](#)
- [Newsletter 5 October 2013 Sommet Mondial des Dirigeants Locaux et Régionaux](#)
- [Rabat Declaration](#)
- [Jeune Afrique En Plus](#)
- [My municipal adventures](#)
- [The City of 2030 - Our Manifesto](#)
The World Summit will take place from 1-4 October 2013 in Rabat, Morocco.
For the first time in history, the African continent will host a UCLG World Congress.
The World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders is the 4th UCLG Congress following the
Founding Congress in Paris in 2004, the Jeju Summit in 2007 and the 3rd Congress in Mexico
City in 2010.
The Summit is organized by UCLG and hosted by the City of Rabat and the Moroccan
Government.
The World Summit is an opportunity to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the
municipal movement, which was born in 1913.
Over 3,000 participants from over 100 countries will attend the Summit, including local
and regional leaders, representatives from international organizations and financial
institutions, along with partners from civil society and the public and private sector.
The Summit is a great assembly of local and regional elected representatives from
across the globe.
The theme of this Summit is, “Imagine Society, Build Democracy”, incorporating topics
such as fostering wellbeing, managing diversity, new governance and dynamics of change
and solidarity between territories.
The debates and exchanges will be structured into: 1 introductory plenary session, 4
thematic roundtables, 12 parallel sessions, 2 strategic plenaries, a final
plenary, and several parallel events.
Three statutory meetings of the UCLG Congress will be held at the Summit to define the
strategic priorities of the World Organization for the coming three years: the Executive
Bureau, the World Council and the General Assembly.
Exhibition space "RABAT EXPO": A large space will be dedicated to the exhibition “RABAT
EXPO”. The exhibition will be made up of several pavilions hosted by UCLG partners including
fund providers, international organizations, private sector partners, and civil society
organizations. A space will be reserved for short speeches, parallel events and presentations
of our partners’ experiences of innovative projects.

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A unique occasion to define the vision and agenda of cities and regions for the
21st century and to define the strategy and international action of local and regional
authorities vis-à-vis the strategic objectives of the international agenda for
development

- An ideal **opportunity to** mobilise a large number of political decision makers at local, regional, national and global level
- Define **concrete local actions and solutions** to global challenges
- Conduct an analysis on the implementation of the agenda approved during the Habitat II Conference in 1996 and **prepare the path toward the Habitat III Conference** in 2016
- Mobilize the **UCLG network to work toward an interactive, participatory and dynamic model**
- **Bring members of UCLG closer to the organization’s partner institutions**
- UCLG members will take important steps in defining the strategic direction of the World Organization and the renewal of **governing bodies of UCLG** for a mandate of three years
- This Summit will also see the renewal of the mandates of the **Committees and Working Groups** of UCLG

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As the United Nations and the international community prepare to take stock of the Millennium Development Goals and to define a new development programme for the next twenty to thirty years, it is also time for local and regional authorities to come together to set forth the **Cities and Regions’ Agenda for the 21st Century**. The 4th Congress will be a key stage of our reflections on this agenda, structured around the theme of “Imagine Society, Build Democracy”.

Following our Manifesto on “The Cities of 2030”, approved by our World Congress held in Mexico, and within the framework of celebrating the centenary of the international local government movement, UCLG proposes that the forthcoming world gathering of local and regional authorities address the foundations of governance: how to build our future together.

The future of our planet concerns all of us, wherever we are. This is why the perspective and vision of local governments is so important.

Ensuring access to basic services and building plural societies, which are open to innovation and promote tolerance, solidarity and exchange, is at the heart of the international movement advocated by UCLG. Gender equality in political, economic and social contexts and the reinforcement of the role of culture in our societies must lead the action of local and regional authorities.

**“Imagine Society, Build Democracy”**, the guiding principle of the congress, involves broad-based and permanent dialogue between local and regional authorities, with the involvement of all partners - international organizations, development agencies, experts and practitioners - as well as civil society organizations, to analyze and assess which development goals have been accomplished and to set new priorities together.
The Summit will be a time of sharing and positive exchange to highlight the innovative policies and programmes that local and regional governments implement on a daily basis to tackle the major challenges they face. As such, the plenary sessions and workshops will be auspicious times for reflection but also for presenting solutions.

The 2013 World Summit will be structured around two main concepts:

- The contribution of local and regional authorities to the wellbeing of communities and their role in the Post 2015 development agenda
- The identification of the new challenges and ways of confronting the demands of an increasingly urban population as we work towards Habitat III Conference in 2016

Other topics:

1. Fostering wellbeing
2. Strengthening solidarity among territories
3. Supporting new local governance and dynamics of change
4. Promoting diversity

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