

United Cities and Local Governments



World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders, 16-20 November 2010

The City of 2030 - Our Manifesto

Adopted in Mexico City, 20 November 2010

We have met here in Mexico City at a time when local and regional governments across the world face severe challenges and crises. Nonetheless we have a clear responsibility to look ahead and create the conditions for a better future for all.

Our future is not only globally intertwined, but increasingly urban. In the next 20 years Africa and Asia will see by far the fastest growth in urban settlements. In Africa alone, the growth in population will equal the current entire population of the USA.

It is the world's medium and smaller towns and cities, far more than the largest cities, which will be responsible for receiving and looking after these millions of new urban dwellers. Moreover, as the world's urban population grows, the interdependence of town and countryside become even tighter.

We know of course that the challenges facing city leaders differ from region to region, from country to country, and that those in low-income countries face stresses and problems on a vastly greater scale. But we share many common goals as well as problems, and are united in a common determination to make our urban world a better, more inclusive world. Here, therefore, is our Manifesto for the City of 2030.

A DEMOCRATIC, SELF-GOVERNING CITY

The city of 2030 cannot be successfully managed from “above” or “outside” – it requires a democratic city government and leadership, chosen by the people and accountable to them. A city, where women and men play an equal role in decision-making. A city government which has the right powers, finances and human resources to enable it to develop high quality public policies; and which works with other levels of government, as well as with neighbouring municipalities, to develop common approaches to successful development.

AN INCLUSIVE CITY OF PARTICIPATION

Representative democracy is essential, but has to be complemented by a vibrant participatory democracy. Our city of 2030 is based on the participation of all its inhabitants, ensuring that all groups – poor as well as rich, women and men, young and old, migrant as well as multi-generation residents – are able to take an equal part. A city, which values and recognises the role that migrants play as a bridge between their host city and the city of origin. To make the urban mix work for the common good, city governments must, through active participation, design and implement powerful policies for social cohesion, based on its democratic values, on gender equality, human rights, and the people’s “right to the city”.

A CITY WITH A VISION FOR ITS FUTURE

Our city of 2030 knows where it wants to go, knows what it wants to be. It has a clear outward- looking strategic vision, based on an accurate diagnosis of its potential and its resources, and a plan of action to make it a reality. The vision and the plan are developed and implemented in partnership with the citizens, as well as the public and private partners. The vision and plan must, of course, be realistically aligned with the city’s foreseen resources, public and private; to play its leading role, the city government in particular must have adequate, diversified, well-managed finances.

A LIVEABLE CITY

A successful city is a blend of the positively planned and the creatively organic. Planned - to enable infrastructure, facilities, services and investments to take place in the right place, at the right time, with coherence and aesthetic in urban design and fabric, and resilience to natural hazards. Organic - to enable the city to develop and enhance its own life, culture, economic and social diversity without overweening regulation, and favouring mixed uses wherever this can be done without harm. In sum, to promote an inclusive and dynamic city, from neighbourhood to metropolitan scale.

A CREATIVE CITY, A CITY OF CULTURE

The city of 2030 constantly inspires and nurtures creativity and innovation, while cultivating knowledge, heritage and memory. The city will also strive for excellence and creativity in its cultural programmes, giving full recognition to the role of its artists. It places a high value on education, at all levels and for all ages, endowing its children and adults with the skills, knowledge, and qualities they require. It fosters and promotes culture, the essential “fourth pillar” of the sustainable city. For culture is at once an expression of the human spirit, a means of bringing people together across divides, and a powerful factor in the city’s economic and social life and development.

A SECURE CITY, A CITY OF PEACE

The city of 2030 places a high premium on security, knowing that crime and fear of crime are destructive of citizens' confidence and aspirations. A city where women can live without fear of any kind of violence. It will, moreover, actively support initiatives for dialogue, reconciliation and peace among communities and nations.

A MOBILE CITY

The city of 2030 is one in which people are able to circulate freely and efficiently, for work, education, shopping, and leisure; where goods can be delivered and moved at the right times and in the right modes. The city will give priority to non-polluting, affordable and safe forms of transport, enabling women and men, rich and poor, to have equal access to the city, and favouring changes between modes of transport. To these ends, it will in particular support an integrated and accessible public transport system, well connected to all key points within the city and the region.

A CITY FIT FOR WORK

The city of 2030 will gear its economic development to the needs and technologies of the future, favouring a climate of enterprise for businesses of all sizes, and offering decent jobs. The city will not, in general, have a stand-alone economy, but will form part of a network of cities favouring a cluster of connected activities and research. Therefore, its economic development strategy will need to fit into a broader urban-regional strategy, with urban land use, transport and service planning adapted to this strategy. The successful city will understand that issues of "liveability" and mobility, together with a supportive network of local relationships, are closely linked to economic competitiveness. The city will encourage social and cooperative enterprises; local public enterprises may also play a valuable role.

A CITY WITH PRIDE IN ITS PUBLIC SERVICES

The city of 2030 recognizes that public services and public goods play an essential role in promoting the wellbeing of all its citizens, reducing inequality and fostering social cohesion. High quality, accessible, affordable public services strengthen the city's economic as well as social life, and help to create a common sense of belonging. The city's staff and administration – at all levels – will have a strong public service ethos, and a commitment to quality, effective management, transparency and accountability.

A CITY WITHOUT SLUMS

The city of 2030 is a city in which the poor are not exported to slums on the urban periphery or unsafe land, nor isolated in inner city ghettos, but where their needs (present and anticipated) are integrated into the city's planning systems for land use, infrastructure development and public services. A city where land tenure rights and protections are defined and enforced, the right to decent housing is recognised, and where slum prevention and upgrading are given priority, wherever slums exist. A city, therefore, which values its strong social fabric, and where the voice of the powerless is listened to.

A CLEANER, GREENER, MORE COMPACT CITY

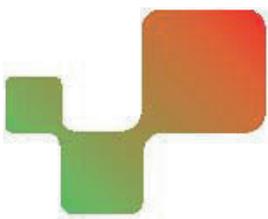
The city of 2030 will strive to reduce its urban environmental footprint. It will aim to become more compact - we cannot afford to use more and more of the earth's surface for low-density, resource-intensive settlements, in which mobility depends almost wholly on the car. The city will give priority to energy efficiency, to renewable energies and non-polluting technologies. The city's government and people will understand, more clearly than ever, the need to minimise and mitigate climate change, and protect themselves from its adverse impacts.

THE CITY OF 2030 - A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNANCE

The future of the city is, by definition, the responsibility principally of the city government. But cities do not stand alone. They are strengthened through cooperation with neighbouring municipalities. They form part of metropolitan or wider regions or provinces, and the regional government - through its policies, financial contributions and the quality of its partnership - is also an essential partner in the city's development. The success of the city of 2030 depends substantially on this co-operation between city and region.

WITH UCLG, FULL PARTNERS IN GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

The cities, towns and regions of 2030 will have, must have, a strong presence and role in the new global governance. This is already the task of our world organisation, United Cities and Local Governments. But the task becomes more and more vital as our planet continues to urbanize, and as our futures intertwine ever more intricately. UCLG, our representative and advocate at world level, must - both in formal status and in daily practice - be involved as full partner by the UN and wider international community, in all issues concerning the future of our cities and human settlements.



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