

May - Congress in Paris

The **Founding Congress in Paris** saw the biggest gathering ever of mayors, councillors and elected representatives of cities and local and regional governments to officially create the world organization "United Cities and Local Governments", with the mission of representing and defending the interests of local governments on the world stage. A Co-Presidency was elected, composed of Marta Suplicy, Mayor of Sao Paulo; Bertrand Delanoë, Mayor of Paris; Smangaliso Mkhathshwa, Mayor of Tshwane-Pretoria; Clarence Anthony, Mayor of South Bay as Elected Treasurer.

May

An unprecedented framework agreement was signed between UCLG and the **World Bank** in order to collaborate in fighting poverty and improving the living standards of people in the developing world.



June

The **Cardoso Report** on United Nations-Civil Society Relations recommended that "the United Nations should regard UCLG as an advisory body on governance matters". Although never officially implemented this recommendation gave new strength to the voice of local authorities before the UN Agencies.

March

The **United Nations recognised at the Beijing +10** review that increased participation of women in local decision making is a strategic factor for the achievement of gender equality. UCLG further advocated for the percentage of seats held by women in local government bodies to be recognised as a Millennium Development Goal indicator.

August

At the **Millennium +5 Summit** in New York, the United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan and the President of the United Nations General Assembly Jan Eliasson met a UCLG Mayors' delegation. The final declaration recognises local authorities as actors in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Cities, regions and associations mobilised to contribute to tackling global challenges with a clear local impact:

- Over one thousand cities and local government associations joined the high-profile **UCLG Millennium Towns and Cities Campaign** and white banners were displayed on local government buildings across the world.
- Hundreds of cities joined **'STOP AIDS. Make the Promise'** and coordinated their events on the international AIDS day.



MDGs Campaign: Paris - Buenos Aires - Rome

2004



Founding Congress in Paris - May 2004

May

Being the first document in the world which links culture with local governance, the **Agenda 21 for Culture** was agreed in May 2004 by 198 cities, local governments and associations of local governments from all over the world to enshrine their commitment to human rights, cultural diversity and participatory democracy.

September

The longstanding relation between **UN-Habitat** and the local government movement was further strengthened through the signing of an agreement of cooperation to promote the adoption of international policies on decentralisation.



2005

June - World Council in Beijing

The first **Committees and Working groups** of UCLG were established and opened the door for cities, local governments and their associations. Today, over 18 different topics are covered by the Committees and Working Groups.



World Council in Beijing - June 2005

Local Governments are recognized an advisory role at the UN. UCLG holds the majority of seats in the

November

The digital divide was addressed by local governments before the international community. The **Bilbao Declaration** included 10 principles focusing on the universal access to information and the fight against all forms of discrimination in the use of information technologies.

United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA).

November - World Council in Istanbul

The **Policy Paper on Social Inclusion**, adopted by the World Council of UCLG in November, set out the first global political guidelines on local public policies for social inclusion.



September

2008 also saw the strengthening of the ties with other networks, especially those who, as ICLEI and the C40, are working on the field of Climate Change. Together with them, UCLG prepared and launched the **'World Mayors and Local Governments Climate Protection Agreement'**, to enable its members to express their commitment, and developed a roadmap for local authorities for Bali-Poznan-Copenhagen.

UCLG stood in the forefront on slum upgrading. The World Organization became for the next three years the Chair of the Executive Committee of **Cities Alliance**, a unique partnership coordinated by UN Habitat and the World Bank and gathering the main international donors.



October

UCLG constituted the first ever comprehensive study project on the state of decentralisation by setting up the **Global Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralisation (GOLD)**. The report put an emphasis on the contemporary situation of local governments in all regions of the world and demonstrated the progress of local autonomy throughout the world during the two previous decades.



Presidency in Jeju

April

The **International Guidelines on Decentralisation** constituted an important step forward towards the adoption of an international legal framework on decentralisation. For the first time ever, the decentralisation process was at the forefront of international policies.

March - Executive Bureau in Paris

Local governments raised awareness on the **impact of climate change on cities and their inhabitants**. Over 250 mayors and local governments' leaders showed how the world's cities, regardless of their geographic location, are obliged to manage the consequences of this challenge. The Paris Declaration therefore encouraged cities to set up plans and studies to assess the impact of climate change in urban areas.

February - Executive Bureau in Washington

At the UCLG Executive Bureau meetings in Washington, the **World Bank President** Paul Wolfowitz expressed the interest of the World Bank in strengthening relations with UCLG and committed to developing new instruments to support city development.



Meeting with the World Bank - Executive Bureau in Washington - February 2006

2008

September

Local governments expressed their will for a deeper commitment on conflict prevention, post-conflict reconstruction and peace building. The **Haague Agenda for City Diplomacy** developed a concrete work programme for local and regional authorities on the international scene.

November

Platforma, under the aegis of the CEMR, European section of UCLG, was created to facilitate dialogue between the European institutions and local and regional authorities.

September

UCLG became a stakeholder in the international on aid effectiveness. Notably, UCLG became member of the advisory group of the **UN First Forum for Development Cooperation** in New York, and participated in the **Third OECD High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness** in Accra. We made the case to the international community for the greater involvement of cities and regions in the development, implementation and monitoring of aid policies.

October - Congress in Jeju

At the **Second World Congress of UCLG** organised in Jeju (South Korea), about 2,000 mayors and local governors gathered to discuss the consequences of urban expansion, cooperation with regions and the challenges for the City of tomorrow. The **Policy Paper on Local Finance** provides 25 concrete recommendations such as redirecting development aid to the sphere of

April

government closest to the citizens and reforming credit mechanisms and financial tools to enhance local governments' access to borrowing.



Congress in Jeju - October 2007

October WC in Marrakech

March

Governments of the world acknowledged that local authorities play a major role in delivering a sustainable access to water and to sanitation services, and in supporting integrated water resource management. The Declaration of the Local Governments of UCLG was included in the final declaration of the **World Forum on Water** in March 2006.



World Water Forum in Mexico

2006

2009

April

Local and Regional Authorities stressed their role for peace and dialogue at the Second Forum of the **UN Alliance of Civilizations**.

June - Executive Bureau in Copenhagen

The local governments spoke with one voice during the COP 15 on Climate Change, thanks to the **Local Government Climate Change Leadership Summit** gathered by UCLG and partners in June.



May-October

At the occasion of the **Shanghai World Expo**, which theme was "Better City Better Life", UCLG held an unprecedented presence of a global organization of cities, towns and regions in a Universal Exposition.



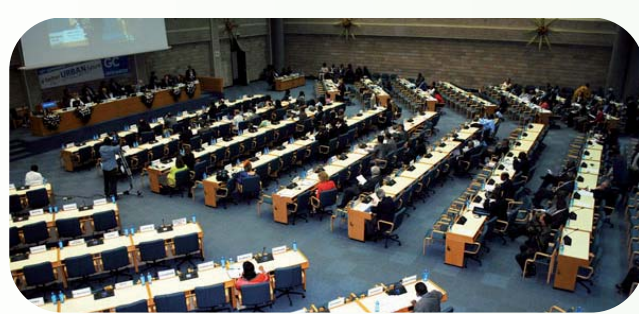
Shanghai 2010

2010

April EB in Chicago

April

The adoption of the **International Guidelines of Access to Basics Services** was a major step forward towards the recognition of Local Authorities contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.



General Assembly of UN-Habitat

November - World Council in Guangzhou

The World Council of UCLG adopted unanimously in November 2009 the **UCLG Position Paper on Aid Effectiveness and Local Government**, which reminds the contribution of Local and Regional Authorities in the field of aid and development through decentralized cooperation and peer to peer partnerships. It is also a call of Local Authorities for Aid Effectiveness not being a pretext for the international community to centralize even more aid resources and policies.

June

The challenges of development cannot be solved without the knowledge, expertise and endowment of local and regional governments, legitimate actors on the ground. This was the message delivered by UCLG during the **Forum on Cooperation and Development**: strong accountable local governance is an effective accelerator of development.

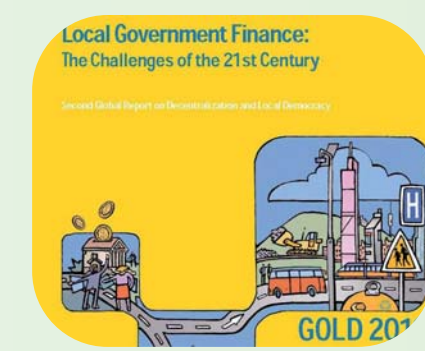
November - Congress in Mexico

From 16th to 20th November, the **Third Congress of UCLG - First World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders** takes place in Mexico City. The aim of the Summit is to



discuss the critical issues facing our world and each continent and to agree on a set of initiatives, priorities and actions. The Summit is looking at three main themes, all of which are connected: Global crises: Local Impacts; The City of 2030; Local and Regional Governments - Partners in the new Global Governance. At this occasion are approved

Democracy and Decentralisation, which topic are the Local Finances, is also presented. This Congress represents a new start for the World Organization, with the elections of **new statutory bodies and of a new Presidency**.



With now more than **60 topics of interest, 18 Commissions and Working Groups and constant growing memberships**, UCLG has reached its cruising speed. It is now time for its members to redefine their objectives for the coming years and to rethink the challenges for the City of 2030

Founded in May 2004, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) is the united voice and world advocate of democratic local self-government.

Representing over half of the world's population, the members of UCLG are present in 136 UN Member States across all world regions Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Eurasia, Middle East-West Asia, Latin America and North America - covered by seven continental section and a metropolitan section. Over 1,000 cities and regions are direct members of UCLG, as well as 112 national associations.

UCLG's major areas of policy focus include local democracy, climate change and environmental protection, Millennium Development Goal achievement, local finance, urban development, city diplomacy for peace building.



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