



#CitiesAreListening

CITIES ARE LISTENING



metropolis ●

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



TUESDAY
08 December 2020
15:00 - 17:00 CET



DECENTRALISATION &
LOCAL GOVERNANCE

The [UCLG Decalogue for the post COVID-19 era](#) is the political charter of world organisation United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) in these times of crisis. The document, which consists of 10 actions towards the sustainable and inclusive recovery, builds on the political declaration of the most recent world congress of UCLG. At that congress, local and regional governments and their associations already committed to build a world of solidarity.

The decalogue **highlights the importance of international work of local and regional governments and their associations**. Before and during the COVID-19 crisis, local and regional governments have demonstrated their capacity to act as promoters and guardians of **international solidarity and development**. The Sustainable Development Goals remain the primary framework for international action, at all levels of government.

The [Capacity and Institution Building Working Group](#) of UCLG has worked on a [joint position on COVID-19 and \(the continued need for\) local government development cooperation](#). The position highlights that development cooperation by local governments is an effective means towards sustainable recovery from the ongoing crisis. Furthermore, it mentions how the CIB network, a platform for professionals working at local governments and their associations on international development, plans to concretely contribute to the objectives mentioned in the Decalogue.

To further discuss how COVID-19 is impacting development cooperation by international organisations, national governments and local governments, UCLG and CIB have decided to organise a **high-level dialogue (a #CitiesareListening event)**, where we invite representatives from all of these parties. The conversation will touch upon the latest developments in international development and reflect on how COVID-19 has enlarged pre-existing issues and is creating new opportunities. It is important to have this conversation with representatives from national governments and donor organisations to ensure that the funding reaches the communities that need it the most and that we develop more resilient societies.

Draft agenda

Link to register:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1wcMf8zL8yzSWY9OqVZCIXgaIIQaMBsN5ZjBdCkme_HY/viewform?edit_requested=true

Opening remarks

15:00-15:10

- **Emilia Saiz**, UCLG Secretary General
- **Jan van Zanen**, Mayor of The Hague, Chair of VNG and co-president of UCLG

Live Consultation

15:10-16:00 Moderated panel discussion round 1

Moderator: Lucy Slack, Commonwealth Local Government Forum

*What role are local governments playing in the COVID-19 crisis, worldwide?
How is COVID-19 impacting development cooperation?*

Confirmed panellists:

- Geneviève Sevrin, Director of Cités Unies France
- Achim Johannsen, Senior Policy Officer, Division - Governance, Democracy, Rule of Law, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
- Thomas Gass, Assistant Director General SDC, FDFA – Head of South Cooperation SDC - Ambassador – Co-Chair GPEDC
- Shehryar Sarwar, Senior Analyst, Governance and Accountability, Global Affairs Canada
- Bert Janssens, Head of European and International Unit at Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VVSG, Flanders)
- Nayoka Martinez Bäckström, Senior Program Specialist and Thematic Coordinator-Urban Development, Unit for Global Cooperation on Environment, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

16:00-16:50 Moderated panel discussion – round 2

Moderator: Billy Cobbett, Cities Alliance

How is the crisis impacting priorities within development cooperation policies and activities?

What future scenarios do you see?

Confirmed panellists:

- Shipra Narang Suri, Chief, Urban Practices Branch, UN-Habitat
- Carme Gual, Director of the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation, Spain
- Lex Gerts, Deputy Director of Stabilization and Humanitarian Aid, Ministry of Foreign Affairs The Netherlands
- Jenny Jansson Pierce, Director SKL International, Sweden
- Marlène Simeon, Director of PLATFORMA
- Hiroyuki Ito, Manager Green City Action Plan (GCAP), European Bank of Reconstruction and Development

16:50-17:00 Wrap-up by **Peter Knip**, Director of VNG International and Chair of the CIB Working Group & Closing remarks by **Berry Vrbanovic**, Mayor of Kitchener and UCLG Treasurer