

KEY DECISIONS

MEETINGS OF THE UCLG WORLD COUNCIL

4-7 DECEMBER 2015, PARIS

The city of Paris, at the invitation of Mayor Anne Hidalgo, Co-president of UCLG hosted the UCLG World Council from 4 to 7 December 2015. The meetings took place on the occasion of the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP21).

The gathering brought together local and regional government organizations that co-organized the constituency's inputs to the Climate Negotiations over the past two years, culminating in the Climate Summit for Local Leaders at Paris City Hall on 4 December, and led to the active representation of local and regional governments at the COP Action Day (5 December) as well as the Cities Day (8 December). It further led to the adoption of the Paris City Hall Declaration, the ratification of the Lima-Paris Action Agenda and the Paris Pledge.

The unprecedented presence and visibility of local and regional governments, brought about with the support of the UN Envoy for Climate, Michael Bloomberg, who sponsored the Summit at the City Hall in an unprecedented partnership, is expected to contribute to significant progress in the role acknowledged to our constituency in the implementation of the successful and far-reaching agreement reached by UN Member States.

The agenda that UCLG brought to Paris was, however, broader than the climate agenda and reflects the variety and reach of its membership. The UCLG World Council gathered around 600 participants from approximately 60 countries, with representation from all world regions. Aside from the statutory meetings (Financial Management Committee, Committee on Statutory Affairs, Executive Bureau and World Council), two Regional Sections of UCLG organized meetings: the Latin American membership convened a meeting to discuss ways forward in the process to strengthen the Section, and the European Section organized its Policy Committee.

The meetings in Paris also saw a change of leadership in the UCLG Metropolitan Section, where Mr. Huchon, President of Ile-de-France Region, handed over the Presidency to the Mayor of Montréal during the UCLG World Council session.

Two thematic sessions were also organized in the framework of the World Council: the Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights convened a session on "From COP21 to Habitat III: local governments and citizens at the heart of the challenges", gathering local and regional governments, as well as representatives from civil society; and the Standing Committee on Gender Equality organized a session on "Women Leadership and Development" that included representation from local governments and international partners. The Committee on Development Cooperation and City Diplomacy, the Taskforce on Local Government Disaster Response, the Community on Urban Innovation and the Committee on Culture convened regular meetings.

This document provides a summary of the main decisions adopted during the different statutory meetings. Detailed reports will follow and will be presented to the relevant bodies for adoption.

I. POLITICAL MOTIONS

- 1. Solid Local Democracy and Sound Local Governance: The Basis of a Successful Habitat III Agenda**
- 2. Local and Regional Governments' Solidarity and Preparedness Instrumental to the Humanitarian Crisis**
- 3. The Local Dimension of the 2030 Agenda**

II. POLICY DECISIONS

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- 2. Local Economic Development**
- 3. Habitat III preparations and the Second World Assembly**
- 4. A Global Agenda of Local and Regional Governments for the 21st Century**
- 5. UCLG Awards**
- 6. Section of Regions**
- 7. Representation of the Latin American Region**
- 8. World Congress**

III. STATUTORY ISSUES

- 1. Strengthening the UCLG Network and Sections**
- 2. Calendar and framework for the elections and renewal of the Governing Bodies (electoral calendar, framework for elections, call for elections for the Presidency)**
- 3. Call for the Next UCLG Congress**
- 4. Changes in the Leadership**
- 5. Membership**
- 6. Report of the Financial Management Committee**

IV. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

I. POLITICAL MOTIONS

UCLG, as the broadest network of local and regional governments organizing the voice of the constituency internationally, brought a wide agenda to the meetings in Paris. UCLG pled for a political approach to the challenges that need to be faced globally. Its membership called for stronger local institutions closely connected to the needs of the citizens to find solutions. Following the report of the Presidency delivered by the Mayor of Istanbul and UCLG President, Kadir Topbaş, and the welcome words of Co-President Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris, political motions were presented for consideration by the Council.

The political motions that different leaders of UCLG presented in Paris reflect the key concerns of cities, towns, regions and their associations around the world. They further summarize the daily concerns of citizens in all continents. The content and spirit of the motions, which had been circulated and amended in advance, were presented by the Mayors of Paris, Barcelona and Dakar. The floor was open for statements. Twenty six leaders intervened to share their support for the motions followed by a signing ceremony. Signatory members are published on the UCLG website. Other UCLG members willing to actively endorse the motions adopted by the Council are invited to do so by contacting the World Secretariat.

The motions will be sent to International Community Partners for information and will guide actions integrated in the Work Programme adopted in Paris.

1. **Solid Local Democracy and Sound Local Governance: The Basis of a Successful Habitat III Agenda**

Presented by Ms. Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris, Co-President of UCLG

1. In a world where increasing tensions are felt internationally between and within nations, the motion called for national governments to respect the principles of subsidiarity and self-government. It also called to respect the mandate of local elected representatives, as well as to build on a strong universal political agenda with a holistic approach, going beyond sectors. It signalled the need to build local institutions with adequate competences and resources around the world.
 2. The motion further called for inclusive implementation and monitoring mechanisms at national, regional and international level that will acknowledge the role of local and regional governments in the definition, monitoring and implementation of international policies.
 3. In the light of the recent violent events in Paris, Beirut, Baghdad and around the world, the Mayor of Madrid, with the support of Paris, invited to co-organize an International Forum on Peace and Participatory Democracy in 2016 in the city of Madrid. The Forum should be seen a space for reflection to solve conflicts without violence and to build cities of well-being for the future.
 4. Members underscored the need to link this International Forum with existing UCLG activities related to City Diplomacy and the Peace Prize. They further underlined the importance of linking this issue with education and youth in cities, as well as the links between this motion and the one on the humanitarian crisis. The human aspects of cities in the Habitat III process were also highlighted.
- **Members of the Council adopted the motion on solid local democracy and sound local governance for a successful Habitat III agenda.**
 - **Members supported the proposal of Madrid to host an International Forum on Peace and Participatory Democracy and mandated the World Secretariat to collaborate to further define the initiative.**

2. Local and Regional Governments' Solidarity and Preparedness Instrumental to the Humanitarian Crisis

Presented by Ms. Ada Colau, Mayor of Barcelona

5. The motion emphasized that, as the sphere of government closest to the people, local and regional governments have both a legal and moral obligation to act, not only towards the citizens we represent but also towards those that reach our territories seeking safety.
 6. It called on national governments to include local and subnational governments in their deliberations, strengthen capacity building and provide adequate funding to face crisis situations, in particular for displaced persons and the refugee crisis.
 7. Considering the failure of states in solving most humanitarian problems, members committed to work with all stakeholders to enable urban societies, in particular those most at risk, to prepare for, cope with and recover more quickly from the effects of natural disasters and/or armed conflicts.
 8. In this perspective, it was proposed to create a Working Group to coordinate the actions of and enable knowledge exchange between cities that play a role in hosting refugees, in order for our joint demands to reach the relevant states.
 9. In adopting the motion, members of the World Council committed to supporting displaced persons and contributing to finding adequate solutions for their refuge.
 10. Members referred to the need to embed the motion in human rights and the principles of gender equality, inclusive participation, accountability to affected populations, non-discrimination and the right to remedy violations.
 11. Members also recalled the need to make reference to the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City, adopted at the UCLG World Council in 2011 and to work in close coordination with the existing Taskforce on Local Government Disaster Response, linking this resolution to the World Humanitarian Summit that will take place in 2016 in Istanbul.
- **Members of the Council adopted the motion on local and regional governments' solidarity and preparedness.**
 - **Members supported the proposal to create a Working Group to coordinate actions on the roles of cities hosting refugees and mandated the World Secretariat to further define the steps ahead.**

3. The Local Dimension of the 2030 Agenda

Presented by Khalifa Sall, Mayor of Dakar and President of UCLGA

12. Members reiterated that by paying specific attention to sustainable urbanization in SDG 11, the new agenda is triggering the type of transformation in our joint action that will lead to the world we want.
13. Members highlighted that all the SDGs have a local dimension, which is essential to their achievement, and that local governments have a responsibility to contribute to the achievement of all SDGs.
14. The cultural dimension of the development agenda, including diversity and creativity, were mentioned as important pillars of the new agenda.
15. The motion stressed that localization of the 2030 Agenda is not the implementation of a global or national agenda at local level; but rather building adequate conditions at local level to achieve the global goals.

16. Members called for a strong mechanism for the implementation of the SDGs at local and regional levels.
17. The mayor of Bogotá further highlighted that, in relation to climate change, the Bogota Summit held in September 2015 proposed to renew the paradigm on mitigation and adaptation and that a discussion should be included within UCLG on the "Charter of Bogotá". It was further proposed that UCLG consider to advocate for the worldwide adoption of the "Tobin Tax", a tax on international financial capital flows, as well as the strengthening of a Climate Justice Tribunal that can fight environmental crimes, similar to the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity.
18. Members further called to create an Intergovernmental Panel on Sustainable Urbanization under the auspices of the High-level Political Forum, with representation from local and regional governments.
 - **Members of the Council adopted the motion on the local dimension of the 2030 Agenda and called to set up a strong mechanism for the implementation of the SDGs at local and regional level.**
 - **Members called for the creation of an Intergovernmental Panel on Sustainable Urbanization under the auspices of the High-level Political Forum.**
 - **Members took note of the proposals made by the city of Bogotá and requested to consider these proposals in future advocacy initiatives.**

II. POLICY DECISIONS

1. Adoption of Work Plan and implementation of the Strategic Partnership with the European Union

19. Members were informed of the successful implementation of the first year of the Strategic Partnership with the European Union and the related specific grant agreement. Despite the late receipt of the funding, the different parts of the network actively participated in defining the work plan and important progress has been made benefiting activities in different parts of UCLG. Conscious of the temporal nature of the financial grant, the work plan of the organization has followed its traditional logic and the additional resources have been devoted to enhance regular activities. During the second year of implementation, more attention will be paid to strengthening the political visibility of the strategic partnership; enhancing collaboration with the sister networks also participating in the partnership and improving monitoring and impact mechanisms.
20. Activities in 2016 will focus on two key processes that will impact the work of the whole network; namely, Habitat III and the UCLG World Congress in Bogotá.
21. The great achievements attained through the facilitation of the Global Taskforce and the increasing recognition of UCLG and its Sections as key partners for the international development community are reflected in requests to lead important processes representing local and regional governments throughout Habitat III and in the initial stages of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
22. UCLG will need to ensure enhanced facilitation of the Global Taskforce and the implementation of the process of the second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments.
23. The above will be impossible without the capacity for mobilization and visibility that the 5th World Congress in Bogotá, back-to-back with the Habitat III Conference, provides to all parts of the World Organization.

24. Ensuring close links between these two processes will be instrumental to the success of our international advocacy as well as to strengthening UCLG as a network of networks, developing our membership and capacity for representation.
25. New formats for collaboration and consultations with different parts of the membership will be put in place after the initial tests in 2015. The UCLG Annual Retreat will consolidate the enhanced communication among the different parts of the network and strengthen the links between the four main working areas. The work of Committees and Working Groups will continue to be increasingly embedded in the general work programme of the organization and the staff and political representation of Committees and Working Groups will be closely involved in the implementation of the work plan.
26. Additional efforts will be made to strengthen different aspects of the work of the Sections. Furthermore, the renewal of the UCLG leadership in 2016 will be an important occasion to boost relations with the membership and call for their engagement in UCLG activities. The implementation of the Strategic Partnership will also provide additional resources to support the work of the organization, although with a more reduced scope than last year.

Decisions:

- **Members of the World Council adopted the work plan and agreed that it should be further defined during the next UCLG Retreat in February 2016.**
- **Members took note of the progress made in the implementation of the Strategic Partnership.**

2. Local Economic Development

27. The Third World Forum of Local Economic Development took place in Turin, Italy, from 13 to 16 October 2015, consolidating the biannual event that saw its first edition in Seville, Spain, hosted by FAMSÍ. For the 2015 edition, UCLG and its Working Group on LED was an organizing partner of the Forum, participating in the Executive Committee and mobilizing speakers and participants from the local level.
28. The Forum provided a great opportunity to launch the organization's new key positioning document on LED, based on policy inputs from the UCLG Working Group. The publication summarizes the key recommendations from a comprehensive policy position paper prepared by the group, and outlines the crucial role of local authorities in leading economic development efforts in territories, for example by creating employment and fostering urban-rural linkages, as well as the need to strengthen the capacities of the local level and recognize the importance of urban planning strategies in order to do this.

Decisions:

- **Members of the Executive Bureau agreed to promote the policy recommendations for Local Economic Development presented by Mayor Francisco Toajas Mellado of Las Cabezas de San Juan.**
- **Members were encouraged to support the work of the Working Group on Local Economic Development and to revise the policy paper produced in order to ensure its adoption in 2016.**

3. Habitat III preparations and the Second World Assembly

29. The Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments (GTF) was conceived as a mechanism to articulate the political voice of local governments towards shaping the SDGs and has always had the ambition to link the process of the SDGs with

the New Urban Agenda that will emanate from Habitat III, taking place in Quito, Ecuador, on 17-20 October 2016.

30. Thanks to the work carried out within the framework of the GTF, local and regional authorities are part of the formal process of Habitat III, and the Second Assembly of Local and Regional Governments has been acknowledged as the mechanism through which the representation and participation of our constituency in the process will be enabled.
31. Important progress has been made since the second Preparatory Committee for Habitat III held in Nairobi. The achievements and reports on actions undertaken well as the next steps to be taken and the calendar for 2016 were presented to members.

Decisions:

- **Members took note of the achievements of the Global Taskforce.**
- **They mandated the World Secretariat to continue facilitating the Global Taskforce.**
- **Members were encouraged to actively participate in the Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments that will take place in Quito in conjunction with Habitat III, following the UCLG World Congress.**

4. A Global Agenda of Local and Regional Governments for the 21st Century

32. Based on the mandate received from the Executive Bureau, during the past year, the UCLG World Secretariat has continued to build on its previous policy work to develop the *Global Agenda of Local and Regional Governments for the 21st Century* to contribute to the Habitat III Agenda.
33. In 2015, UCLG has organized three large consultations in Barcelona, based on different types of local and regional governments (metropolitan areas, intermediary cities and small towns and regions). It was highlighted that this multi-dimensional and participative approach is useful, not only to collect inputs from the ground and from practitioners working towards the Global Agenda and the Fourth Global Report on Local Democracy and Decentralization, but also to strengthen and expand our network and ownership of the Agenda using inputs from all our members and partners.

Decisions:

- **Members of the Executive Bureau took note of the reports of the three consultations held in Barcelona, delivered by the Mayor of Rosario, Monica Fein.**
- **Members were encouraged to get involved in the development of the Global Agenda of Local and Regional Governments for Habitat III.**
- **Members were also encouraged to participate in the next consultation and preparatory meetings, and share their contributions with the UCLG World Secretariat.**

5. UCLG Awards

34. Over the last three years, and in line with its strategic priorities and work plan, UCLG has approved the creation of three awards: in 2012, on Urban Innovation; in 2013, on Culture; and in the same year, on Peace.
35. UCLG awards are collaborative initiatives of members that aim to draw public attention to the achievements of local and regional governments on the different

topics identified. They are traditionally managed by UCLG Committees, Working Groups or Communities of Practice.

36. Members noted the updates provided on the three UCLG Awards: the UCLG City of Bogotá Peace Prize, the International Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21, and the Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation.

Decisions:

- **Members of the Executive Bureau took note of the updates related to the three UCLG awards namely: on Peace presented by the Mayor of Den Bosch and the Secretary of Social Inclusion of Bogotá; on Urban Innovation presented by Mr. Su Zhijia, Chairman of Guangzhou People's Political Consultative Conference; and on Culture presented by Mr Cardenas, General Coordinator of International Affairs of Mexico City.**
- **Members were further encouraged to present candidatures and circulate information on the awards in their respective networks.**

6. Section of Regions

37. In September 2015, UCLG received a communication from the Secretariat of ORU-FOGAR informing that the Executive Bureau of ORU-FOGAR was requesting to revisit relations with UCLG and withdraw from the role of Section of UCLG.
38. Members expressed their disappointment but agreed that there was a need to move forward and continue with a UCLG Section for Regions.
39. They recommended that the Province of Santa Fe, Argentina, take on the role of interim Vice President for Regional Governments until the Bogotá Congress. The World Secretariat will undertake the management and facilitation of the Section of Regional Governments.
40. Members supported the initiative of the Province of Santa Fe to organize an international gathering of Regional Governments in 2016.

Decisions:

- **Members of the Executive Bureau took note of the situation reported by Vice President of the Rhône-Alpes Region, Mr Bernard Soulage, and recommended to keep working on strengthening a Section for Regional Authorities within UCLG, under the interim leadership of the Province of Santa Fe. Members supported the initiative of the Province of Santa Fe presented by Mrs Maria Julia Reyna, International Secretary of the region, to hold an international gathering of Regional Governments in 2016.**

7. Representation of the Latin American Region

41. The Latin American membership had met in Porto Alegre and informed the Executive Bureau of their intention to start a process to enhance the participation of members in the region, improve representation and broaden the membership.
42. Members took note of the reports of the representatives of FLACMA and the Permanent Open Working Group on the progress made in Latin America, related to the organization and representation of the Latin American membership.
43. A specific meeting of the Latin American membership took place, and led to a "Declaration for Unity and Diversity". The Declaration emphasizes the need to appoint a Political Group of Mayors for Latin American unity and as a space for decision making. It also stressed the aim to build a renewed Latin American

organization of cities and local governments, which would be put in place in time for the UCLG World Congress in Bogotá and ensure the political voice of the Latin American membership in the World Organization.

Decisions:

- **Members took note of the report of the representative of FLACMA and of the outcomes of the Latin American meeting, including the Declaration for Unity and Diversity.**
- **Members mandated the World Secretariat to support the efforts made by Latin American members.**
- **They further encouraged to speed up the process in view of the renewal of political representation to take place at the World Congress in 2016.**

8. World Congress

44. The 5th UCLG World Congress will take place in Bogotá, Colombia, from 12 to 15 October 2016 under the title "Local voices for a more human future".
45. Six years ago, the UCLG World Council agreed to change the traditional thematic focus of these meetings and to transform the Congress into a global event with a more general approach for local and regional leaders and their partners.
46. The next World Congress will also be the occasion of the third *Local and Regional Leaders World Summit*, and will take place back-to-back with the Habitat III Conference, which will be held in Quito, Ecuador, from 17 to 20 October. Delegations would be able to travel from Bogotá to Quito on 16 October.
47. The hosts from Bogotá presented an oral report on the progress made in the preparations for the Congress and reaffirmed their will to set up the UCLG Congress as a bridge towards the Second Assembly of Local and Regional Governments and the Habitat III Conference.

Decision:

- **Members took note of the progress made in the preparations for the Congress and reaffirmed the will to construct the Congress as strong contribution of the local and regional governments constituency towards the Habitat III Conference.**

III. STATUTORY ISSUES

1. Strengthening the UCLG Network and Sections

48. UCLG's Strategic Priorities for 2010-2016 signalled the importance of further consolidating the existing UCLG network while seeking ways for further expansion. The report of the Secretary General in Haikou explicitly mentioned that the resilience of the organization would need to be based on a stronger and more diversified membership, adapting to new contexts, and a greater involvement of the political leadership.
49. Members expressed their satisfaction with the first Annual Retreat exercise and confirmed their interest in institutionalizing it, with a view to making the Retreat an annual exercise.
50. Councillor Kemp informed the Committee on Statutory Affairs of the initial outcomes and recommendations resulting from the listening exercise carried out by the members of the Executive Bureau appointed to the Group of Wise Persons and the reference group.

51. In line with the objective of strengthening the network, members agreed to continue enhancing the sense of ownership of UCLG, increasing UCLG's capacity to act as a "network of networks", and continue working on the agreements with Sections.
52. Finally, a representative from UCLG-Eurasia presented an update of the initiative "World Cities International Activity Rating". The international rating will allow the promotion of the international activity of UCLG members in attracting investments and strengthening development in cities. The rating should identify best practices in cities in order to foster effective capacity building among UCLG members. Criteria will include business activities of the cities, innovation, international activity of the population, international organizations and institutions, international events, infrastructure and socio-demographic data.

Decisions:

- **Members of the Executive Bureau took note of the actions being taken in relation to our goal of strengthening the network, leadership and governance of UCLG.**
 - **Members were encouraged to use to the new tools being developed.**
 - **The members further highlighted the importance of continuing to organize an annual retreat and to dedicating a specific session to the follow-up of the listening exercise.**
 - **UCLG Executive Bureau took note of the initiative led by UCLG-Eurasia on a World Cities International Activity Rating and mandated the World Secretariat to look into possibilities of implementation in collaboration with the Committee on City Diplomacy.**
 - **Agreements with UCLG Sections should be finalized over the course of 2016.**
2. **Calendar and framework for the elections and renewal of the Governing Bodies (electoral calendar, framework for elections, call for elections for the Presidency)**
 53. 2016 will see the renewal of the Governing Bodies of the World Organization, which will be elected for a three-year term at the 5th UCLG World Congress on 12-15 October 2016 in Bogotá, Colombia. The triennial Congress of UCLG is also the occasion for the election of the new Presidency. The electoral process for the Governing Bodies of the World Organization is managed through the UCLG Sections in close coordination with the World Secretariat. The election of the Presidency is carried out through a global process. The Committee on Statutory Affairs is charged with putting in place a sound process for the UCLG Presidency.
 54. The Committee on Statutory Affairs considered the electoral process to be organized in each Section and recalled the process of the call for candidatures for the Presidency to the members of the Executive Bureau. Members were also reminded of the calendar agreed by the Committee on Statutory Affairs in Porto Alegre:
 - May-June and September 2016: the Committee on Statutory Affairs will review nominations.
 - October 2016: the Committee on Statutory Affairs will consider the candidatures for the Presidency and report back to the General Assembly.
 55. Members were reminded that during the 2016 electoral process, special attention would be paid to ensuring a balance between the different types of members. Achieving greater gender balance and the strict application of rules will also be at the core of the process.
 56. Regarding the UCLG Presidency, terms of reference were discussed. It was recalled that the Presidency carries an important part of the weight of the political

representation of the organization. Due to the broad range of issues covered and the wide spread of activities around the world it is indispensable for the global responsibilities to be shared.

57. The President and Co-Presidents act on behalf of the World Organization, not a specific Section, and take the lead in shaping the agenda of UCLG. They should also foster exchanges between and promote the engagement of members.
58. The active involvement of the members of the Presidency will be instrumental for the political influence of the organization and the sustainability of the movement.

Decisions:

- **The UCLG Sections were invited to launch the electoral process.**
- **The Executive Bureau agreed to launch the call for candidatures for the Presidency and Treasurer of UCLG following the same criteria as in previous years.**
- **Terms of Reference for the roles and tasks of the Presidency (enclosed) were agreed by the members, aiming to ensure political leadership and the commitment of the members of the Presidency to undertake active roles.**

3. Call for the next UCLG Congress

59. The UCLG World Congress – the *World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders* – is organized every three years. It traditionally brings together over 3,000 local and regional elected representatives and practitioners from around the world.
60. Members were recalled that the triennial UCLG World Congress is a focal point for the local government world and the primary meeting point for local elected representatives and their key partners. It is where mayors, councillors and presidents of regional authorities and their associations come together to set the local government agenda for the next three years and beyond, and to examine and debate issues at the heart of local democracy and decentralization in the 21st century.
61. Moreover, it was stressed that the 2019 gathering will be the first Congress following the Habitat III Conference and will also provide the opportunity to present progress in the implementation of the SDGs and their impacts at local level.
62. It should also be the occasion to show the evolution of our World Organization within the framework of its 15th anniversary.
63. The venue of the 6th UCLG World Congress will be announced at the 5th World Congress, taking place from 12-15 October 2016 in Bogotá. The deadline for the submission of candidatures is 20 June 2016.

Decisions:

- **Members agreed on the criteria and conditions defined for the call for the next UCLG Congress in 2019.**
- **Members agreed to launch the call.**

4. Changes in the Leadership

64. The lists of members of the UCLG Governing Bodies continue to suffer changes since their renewal on the occasion of the 4th UCLG World Congress in Rabat in 2013. These changes are due to diverse factors such as local elections, national changes and regional elections within the Sections.

65. Since further changes have occurred since the last meeting of the Committee in Porto Alegre, members were requested to consider the information that reached the Secretariat and to inform of any further changes to the Governing Bodies. Members were presented with key changes in the leadership positions of our World Organization and Sections.
66. UCLG Treasurer Mr. Oualalou did not run for an additional term in the city of Rabat and has consequently presented his resignation as UCLG Treasurer. The Committee recommended that UCLG Deputy Treasurer Mr. Vrbanovic assume the role of Treasurer until the Bogotá Congress.
67. The President of Metropolis Mr. Huchon handed over the Presidency of Metropolis to Mayor Coderre of Montreal during the UCLG World Council.
68. Members were also informed of changes in Secretaries General of FLACMA and Metropolis.
69. It was agreed that all officials leaving their posts in UCLG would be acknowledged as Honorary UCLG members.

Decisions:

- **The Executive Bureau took note of and agreed on the changes in the leadership.**
- **Members agreed that all officials leaving their posts in UCLG would be acknowledged as Honorary UCLG members.**

5. Membership

70. According to the Terms of Reference of the Committee on Statutory Affairs, membership requests and related information are presented to the Committee for recommendation to the Executive Bureau.

Decision:

- **The Executive Bureau approved the membership requests as recommended by the Committee on Statutory Affairs.**

6. Report of the Financial Management Committee

71. The Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer presented the report of the Financial Management Committee, which met on 3 December, and conveyed its recommendations to the Executive Bureau and World Council. The Financial Management Committee proposed the adoption of the three decisions below to the World Council:
 - a. Approval of the accounts and financial discharge for 2014
 - b. Approval of the draft budget for 2016
 - c. 2014 accounts audit report

Decision:

- **The World Council approved the decisions submitted by the Financial Management Committee.**

Execution of the 2015 budget up to 31 October 2015 projection to year end

72. Members noted that the World Secretariat is executing the budget as planned. The key feature of this budget compared to previous years is the operating grant for the amount of €2,168,500 received in 2015. Many activities have been carried out using the resources obtained from the European Commission, both by the World

Secretariat and the Regional Sections and Committees and Working Groups, who have also benefitted from these funds. We must celebrate this exceptional contribution that has enabled greater visibility for our organization as well as to better serve our members.

73. It is expected that the 2015 accounts will balance at year end; however, in order to do this, the various beneficiaries of funds must respect the forms to be completed and deadlines to be met for all amounts to be registered in the 2015 accounts. It was recalled that UCLG is responsible for the total amount of the grant before the Commission.

Membership fees

74. Membership fees represent an essential source of revenue for the World Organization. In order to reach these political objectives and implement actions for which UCLG has been mandated, the World Organization needs the financial commitment of its members to ensure these activities are carried out and to not rely solely on resources from third parties.

IV. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

75. Several Committee meetings were organized in the framework of the World Council.
76. **The Committee on Development Cooperation and City Diplomacy (DCCD)** received reports on the UCLG Champions and Peace Prize. In 2015, the Champions were active in the promotion of development cooperation, particularly as it relates to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Earlier in the year, the City of Bogotá confirmed its interest to host the UCLG Peace Prize and agreed to present the first edition during the World Congress. The Committee will support these initiatives in 2016.
77. The UCLG World Secretariat provided an update on the progress of the Global Taskforce following the adoption of the SDGs, and learned about the development of a toolkit to support the implementation of the SDGs by local governments. The Committee agreed to support the development of the toolkit through its involvement in the CIB Working Group.
78. Information on the local government response to issues of migration from Northern Africa and the Middle East was exchanged by members of the Committee. There was clear support for the further exchange of these initiatives and the development of programming opportunities. The Committee proposed UCLG take the lead or, at least, strongly support the organization of a conference on peace and democracy in early 2016 to encourage more exchange of best practices and approaches.
79. The **Taskforce on Local Government Disaster Response** carried out a mission in Nepal to explore potential reconstruction projects that could include a component of support to the Nepalese local authorities within the framework of a decentralization process.
80. The idea of organizing a UCLG delegation in Kobane, Syria, was recalled. Its objective would be to express the support of the World Organization and identify projects to develop. Financial resources will be sought to that aim.
81. Among the planned activities for 2016, the Taskforce will actively participate in the World Humanitarian Summit organized in Istanbul and will work on drafting a document on how to improve the UCLG network's capacity to respond to urban crises.

82. The **Community on Urban Innovation** announced the launch of the 2016 Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation and approved its annual report on activities and outcomes in 2015 as well as the work plan for 2016, placing specific emphasis on a more structural analysis of all the winning and shortlisted innovative initiatives from cities from the first and second cycles of the Guangzhou Award. At the same time, in order to promote decentralized and peer-to-peer learning, the Community plans to organize two-to-three thematic seminars, workshops and training sessions, together with the Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation, providing a sharing and learning platform for member cities and partners. All the learning and sharing activities will be made more relevant to the local implementation of the SDGs.
83. The Community also held a round table on “SDGs & Urban Innovation: Telling City Success Stories”, in order to strengthen the role of the Community to provide new tools, expertise and knowledge on implementing and achieving the SDGs at the local level. The round table gathered experts and representatives from 10 international organizations and institutions including UCLG, METROPOLIS, ICLEI and C40, as well as urban decision makers and practitioners from 20 local and regional governments. The Mayors of Bristol and Vancouver, representatives from Montreal, Medellin, Berlin and international institutions shared their success stories and thoughts on sustainable development through urban innovation.
84. The **Committee on Culture** held a meeting which involved presentations and discussions on the main activities of the Committee during 2015 and plans for 2016: (a) The “International Award UCLG - City of Mexico - Culture 21” relating to culture in sustainable cities (second edition to take place in 2016); (b) a Culture Summit on Culture and Sustainable Cities (first Summit took place in Bilbao in March 2015; next edition to take place in 2017, the call is open); (c) a programme to support the leading cities of the Committee, based on leadership, advocacy, communication, learning and cooperation; (d) a programme to support pilot cities, based on capacity building and learning; (e) the “Culture 21 Lab” capacity-building and information programme; (f) a database of good practices; (g) a strong online presence through the portal agenda21culture.net and social media; (h) participation in UCLG programmes and projects; (i) partnerships and alliances with other organizations and civil society networks; (j) global advocacy and lobbying on the place of culture in sustainable cities; (k) research on issues related to the place of culture in sustainable cities; and (l) support to thematic and regional seminars, conferences and meetings on culture in sustainable cities.
85. Addresses were delivered by the 1st Vice-Mayor of Paris, on behalf of the city that hosted the meeting, as well as by the Mayor of Bilbao – which had hosted the 1st UCLG Culture Summit in March 2015 – and the Mayor of Belo Horizonte, the city which obtained the 1st edition of the International Award “UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21”. In addition, the representative of Mexico City presented the second edition of this International Award, which had been launched in Paris earlier that day and will be awarded in 2016. The Committee approved its Governance Team for 2016. The 13th meeting of the Committee also served to thank Ms Catherine Cullen, who had served as Chair for the previous three years on behalf of the Métropole Européenne de Lille (MEL) and stepped down on this occasion.