



**UN-HABITAT**



United Cities  
and  
Local Governments

**AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN  
THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME  
And  
UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

THIS AGREEMENT OF COOPERATION (the “Agreement”) is entered into by the **United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)**, originally established as the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) by resolution 32/162 of the General Assembly of the United Nations of 19 December 1977, and thereafter transformed into a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly by resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, with Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, and **United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)**, a new world organisation dedicated to promoting the values, objectives and interests of cities and local governments across the globe, with a large and diverse membership that includes both individual cities and national associations of local governments, established in December 2003 under Spanish law as an association of local authorities with headquarters in Barcelona, Spain;

WHEREAS, UN-HABITAT is the coordinating agency within the United Nations System for human settlements activities and focal point for the monitoring, evaluation and implementation of the Habitat Agenda and responsible for promoting and consolidating collaboration with all partners, including Local Authorities, in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the relevant Goals contained in the Millennium Declaration;

WHEREAS, UN-HABITAT was a crucial partner in contributing to the momentum for the creation of UCLG through its collaboration with the World Associations of Cities and Local Authorities Coordination (WACLAC) following the HABITAT II Conference in 1996 where the seeds of the partnership between Associations of Cities and Local Governments and the United Nations system were set up in the “Istanbul Declaration” and “the Habitat Agenda”, underlining the need for a new partnership between governments and local authorities and setting out a comprehensive plan of action for promoting sustainable human settlements development;

WHEREAS, international declarations and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly of the United Nations on the strengthening of the role of local authorities, including the establishment of the Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA) constitute a legal and favourable framework for a strengthened partnership between the UN system and local authorities and their associations world-wide;

WHEREAS, UCLG is a global voice of cities and an important local government partner of the United Nations, which promotes the policies and experiences of local governments in key areas such as poverty reduction, sustainable development, social inclusion, local governance and defends Local Governments’ interests in United

Nations conferences and fora;

WHEREAS, UCLG supports international cooperation between cities and their associations, facilitates programmes, networks and partnerships to build the capacity of local governments, promotes the role of women in local decision-making, and is a gateway to relevant information on local government across the world;

WHEREAS, UCLG brings together local governments, big and small, rural and urban, in over 100 countries across five continents united around common interests, challenges and goals and is therefore crucial to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and to the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals.

NOW, THEREFORE, on the basis of mutual trust and in the spirit of friendly cooperation, UN-HABITAT and UCLG (the “Parties”) have entered into this Agreement.

**Article 1**  
**OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE**

1. The objective of this Agreement is to establish the general terms and conditions under which the Parties shall collaborate to achieve the objectives set out below for both UN-HABITAT and UCLG through joint work. The expertise from both organizations, which will be used in this collaboration, would allow a more effective and efficient utilization of resources made available to both UN-HABITAT and UCLG.
2. Subject to their respective regulations, rules, policies, practice, procedures and availability of funds, the Parties shall collaborate to implementing a number of joint initiatives, which are detailed as follows:
  - 2.1. The Global Campaign on Urban Governance;
  - 2.2. The Global Observatory of Local Democracy and Decentralization (GOLD) – also called Local Democracy Watch;
  - 2.3. Localizing the Millennium Development Goals – Urban Millennium Partnership;
  - 2.4. The international Dialogue on Decentralization – Advisory Group of Experts on Decentralization (AGRED); and
  - 2.5. The Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA).
3. The commitments made under 2.2 and 2.3 are subject to further elaboration in separate project documents to be finalised with the agreement of the parties.
4. This cooperation aims at maximizing synergies in the partnership between UN-HABITAT as focal point for Local Authorities within the UN system, and UCLG as a world organization of Local Authorities and their associations. It shall also provide a normative framework for collaborative activities of UN-HABITAT and UCLG at the operational level, such as those jointly undertaken under the Cities Alliance initiative.

**Article 2**  
**RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES**

1. The Parties agree to carry out their respective responsibilities in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement. The Parties agree to join efforts and to maintain close-working relationships in order to achieve common objectives and undertake joint activities as follows:

**A. The Global Campaign on Urban Governance**

**1. *Under the framework of the Campaign, UN-HABITAT and UCLG will collaborate to:***

- a) Access each others' networks and promote the involvement of local government associations in national campaigns;
- b) Secure joint development and endorsement of the norms of good urban governance in AGRED's recommendations;
- c) Develop jointly and disseminate knowledge management products and publications;
- d) Mobilise resources for activities at global, regional, national and local levels;
- e) Undertake joint publicity and outreach activities;
- f) Undertake joint operational activities to enhance capacities of cities and local governments to practice good urban governance;
- g) Further develop and monitor the implementation of the Urban Governance Index, and
- h) Jointly assist cities to monitor, using the Urban Governance Index, their progress in improving urban governance; publicizing positive experiences and developing analytical tools together with the local authorities practitioners.

**2. *Furthermore, UN-HABITAT will be responsible for:***

- a) Establishing a secretariat for the Global Steering Group of the Urban Governance Campaign to, *inter alia*, (i) prepare and serve the meetings of the Steering Group, (ii) prepare annual reports on the Urban Governance Campaign activities to facilitate the review and evaluation of progress made, (iii) disseminate minutes of the Steering Group meetings, (iv) facilitate communication between members of the Steering Group and maintain and disseminate general information about the Urban Governance Campaign;
- b) Ensuring resource mobilization to facilitate inputs from partners;
- c) Developing tools for the Global Campaign on Urban Governance, information materials and other documentation in close collaboration with UCLG and other partners of the Campaign;
- d) Initiating activities in new/ emerging areas of interest for the Urban Governance Campaign and its partners; and
- e) Allocating resources to UCLG and its members to lead selected Global, Regional and National Campaigns on a pilot basis.

**3. Moreover, UCLG will be responsible for:**

- a) Chairing the Steering Group, at the level of President or Secretary-General and providing the strategic vision of Local Authorities in the Campaign;
- b) Working with its membership to develop preparations for, launching, and implementation of National Campaigns and National Action Plans;
- c) Mapping the demand for tools and knowledge management products to improve local government capacities;
- d) Contributing to the development of tools for the Urban Governance Campaign, information materials and other documentation and
- e) Being actively involved in development, adaptation, application and dissemination of tools and products for the Urban Governance Campaign.

**B. Global Observatory of Local Democracy and Decentralization (GOLD)**

***1. Under the framework of the GOLD, UN-HABITAT and UCLG will collaborate to:***

- a) Establish jointly the GOLD infrastructure;
- b) Apply existing indicators and develop new indicators, which build on and feed into the Urban Governance Index (UGI) and Global Urban Observatory (GUO) initiatives, as well as add value to the work of UCLG.

***2. Furthermore, UN-HABITAT will be responsible for:***

- a) Supporting the establishment of GOLD, a partnership that will assess and evaluate, on the basis of data provided by various partners, progress made, at all levels, in strengthening the role and status of local authorities;
- b) Mobilising GUO networks in the development of indicators, which will feed into the work of the Global Campaigns, including the UN-HABITAT Advisory Group on Forced Evictions (AGFE);
- c) Identifying, jointly with UCLG and its members, best practices in local democracy, urban governance, decentralization and decentralized cooperation, using both the UGI and new indicators and preparing, jointly with UCLG World Secretariat, a report on the evolution of local democracy, urban governance, decentralization and decentralized cooperation around the world that will be presented at the UCLG Congress;
- d) Supporting the UCLG network to provide training of trainers for associations of Local Authorities in data collection methods and analysis;
- e) Mobilizing resources to facilitate the establishment of the GOLD facility;
- f) Ensuring timely and efficient support to the operations of GOLD through the Urban Governance Campaign and Local Authorities Coordinating Group; and

- g) Participating in the Steering Committee of GOLD, which will, *inter alia*, design a hallmarking system, introduce benchmarks and give awards to cities and local governments.

**3. Moreover, UCLG will be responsible for:**

- a) Establishing a web based facility that will serve as a reference for all GOLD monitoring and documentation activities and where GOLD outcomes will be published;
- b) Identifying, jointly with UN-HABITAT, best practices in local democracy, urban governance, decentralization and decentralized cooperation, using both the UGI and new indicators and preparing, jointly with UN-Habitat, a report on the evolution of local democracy, urban governance, decentralization and decentralized cooperation around the world that will be presented at the UCLG World Congress;
- c) Mobilizing other partners' support for the initiative;
- d) Developing, jointly with Habitat, training of trainers to increase the capacity of national associations aiming to support local governments capacity building;
- e) Mobilizing regional associations of Local Authorities as the main collectors of data on local democracy, urban governance, decentralization and decentralized cooperation, which will play a substantive role both in the policy development and in the implementation;
- f) Encouraging the use of the UGI and new indicators and identifying the capacity-building needs of cities that may emerge from application of the Index;
- g) Participating in the Steering Committee of GOLD;

**C. Localizing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – Urban Millennium Partnership**

***1. Under the framework of localizing the MDGs, UN-HABITAT and UCLG will collaborate to:***

- a) Promote the implementation of MDGs at local level and strengthen the interface between national governments and Local Authorities in achieving the MDGs;
- b) Promote capacity-building activities of Local Authorities in developing countries using the framework of good urban governance in the implementation of MDGs at the local level;
- c) Associate progressively other organisations of the United Nations system involved in the Millennium Campaign with this initiative;
- d) Develop the capacities of regional sections of UCLG to cope with this initiative and play a key role in the local implementation of the activities developed within the framework of the Partnership;

***2. Furthermore, UN-HABITAT will be responsible for:***

- a) Developing the global framework for this partnership in consultation with UCLG and other partners, and preparing regional and thematic modules for localizing MDGs, as appropriate;
- b) Coordinating resource mobilisation and donor agency relations, on behalf of the Partnership;
- c) Mobilizing other UN agencies' support for the Partnership and ensuring linkages with other Millennium Campaign entities;
- d) Involving UCLG in future negotiations on the development of the Partnership;
- e) Establishing a trust fund within UN-HABITAT to receive resources mobilized on behalf of the Partnership;
- f) Consulting UCLG on all proposals for national and city-level activities.

***3. Moreover, UCLG will be responsible for:***

- a) Representing local authorities in the partnership as appropriate to the character of the activities, through the world secretariat, at the global level and through the regional sections at regional level;
- b) Promoting the implementation and monitoring of "Localizing MDGs/Urban Millennium Partnership", including the preparation and dissemination of the tools, knowledge and experiences of this partnership, in collaboration with other partners as appropriate, through its networks;
- c) Participating in the governing structure of "Localizing MDGs: Urban Millennium Partnership" that will set priorities, work plans and budgets;
- d) Mobilizing other partners' support for the Partnership and coordinating the Partnership's links with other entities working with local authorities;
- e) Supporting "Localizing MDGs: Urban Millennium Partnership" as the principal global programmatic vehicle for raising and expending resources in relation to MDGs;

**D. The International Dialogue on Decentralization – Advisory Group of Experts on Decentralization (AGRED)**

***1. Under the framework of AGRED, UN-HABITAT and UCLG will collaborate to:***

- a) Promote the international dialogue on decentralization that has been mandated by various resolutions of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT;
- b) Expand the work of AGRED based on resolution 19/12 of the Governing Council and on the terms of reference of AGRED endorsed at its inaugural meeting in Gatineau;

***2. Furthermore, UN-HABITAT will be responsible for:***

- a) Coordinating and intensifying the international dialogue on decentralization,
- b) Providing secretariat services to the Advisory Group of Experts on Decentralization (AGRED);
- c) Coordinating the drafting of guidelines on decentralization in broad consultation with Local Authorities;
- d) Mobilizing AGRED's and States members and identifying national examples and best practices on decentralization in collaboration with UCLG and other Habitat Agenda partners; and
- e) Ensuring participation of AGRED's members and of UCLG in the international dialogue on decentralization.

**3. Moreover, UCLG will be responsible for:**

- a) Contributing to the international dialogue on decentralization, ensuring the Local Authorities perspective;
- b) Providing, at least, two AGRED members;
- c) Participating in AGRED electronic discussions and meetings;
- d) Contributing to the dissemination of AGRED recommendations at the international levels and among Local Authorities and their associations;
- e) Ensuring active participation of UCLG members in the international dialogue on decentralization;
- f) Contributing to the documentation of best practices from the Local Government's perspective;

**E. The United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA)**

**1. Under the framework of UNACLA, UN-HABITAT and UCLG will collaborate to:**

- a) Strengthen UNACLA as a mechanism to put the agenda of local governments forward in the United Nations System;
- b) Expand the work of UNACLA and increase its profile at the international level;
- c) Promote UNACLA's recommendations as a crucial dimension of UN-HABITAT and UCLG's partnership in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals;

**2. Furthermore, UN-HABITAT will be responsible for:**

- a) Providing a secretariat for UNACLA to prepare and serve meetings, draft minutes and reports on UNACLA activities to facilitate the review and evaluation of progress made,
- b) Facilitate communication between UNACLA members and other partners within and outside the UN system;
- c) Maintaining and disseminating general information on UN-HABITAT's activities with Local Authorities and their associations;

- d) Expanding the work of UNACLA and intensifying efforts to associate other organizations of the UN system, which are also working with Local Authorities, to the activities of UNACLA;
- e) Initiating activities in new and emerging areas of interest for UCLG and its network;
- f) Mobilizing resources to support UNACLA activities, in which UCLG as a member of the Committee will take part;
- g) Organizing meetings of UN Agencies with the UCLG leadership on an annual basis;

**3. Moreover, UCLG will be responsible for:**

- a) Making proposals to the Executive Director for the Chair and Vice-Chair of UNACLA, according to the revised rules of procedure of the Committee;
- b) Collaborating with the UNACLA Secretariat in preparations for meetings, and participating in all activities organized by UNACLA;
- c) Promoting the work of UNACLA and advocating for its strengthening at the international level, including in UN fora;
- d) Linking UNACLA website to the main website of UCLG.

2. The Parties shall keep each other informed of all relevant activities pertaining to the Agreement, and its implementation, and shall hold consultations every six (6) months, or at any time as any Party considers it appropriate, on the status of this cooperation, including any circumstance that may affect the achievement of its objectives.

3. The Parties shall refrain from any action that may adversely affect the interests of the other party and shall fulfil their commitments with fullest regard for the terms and conditions of this Agreement and the principles of the United Nations and UN-HABITAT.

**Article 3**  
**MISCELLANEOUS**

1. This Agreement shall enter into force upon signature by the Parties and shall remain valid until the date on which the activities, as set forth above, are orderly completed or when the Parties decide to terminate them.

2. Should it become evident that changes to this agreement should be made, the Parties shall record them in Amendments called “Annexes”.

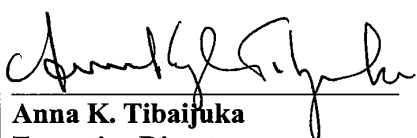
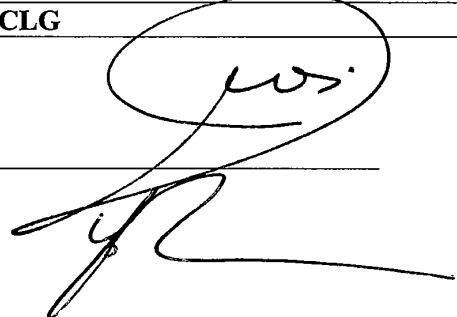
3. Any notice required to be given by either Party under this Agreement shall be given in writing and shall be deemed given when actually received by the other Party, to the following addresses:

<b><u>To UN-HABITAT:</u></b>	<b><u>To UCLG:</u></b>
Mr. Daniel Biau, Deputy Executive Director	Mrs Elisabeth Gateau, Secretary General



Tel: 00 254 20 62 32 10 Fax: 00 254 20 62 42 50 E-mail: <a href="mailto:daniel.biau@unhabitat.org">daniel.biau@unhabitat.org</a> Email: <a href="mailto:unacla@unhabitat.org">unacla@unhabitat.org</a> ,	Tel: 00 34 93428750 Fax: 00 34 93428760 E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@cities-localgovernments.org">info@cities-localgovernments.org</a>
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**4. IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the undersigned duly authorized representatives of UN-HABITAT and UCLG, have signed this Agreement in two original copies at the place and on the day written below.

UN-HABITAT	UCLG
 <b>Anna K. Tibajuka</b> <b>Executive Director</b>  <b>Place &amp; Date:</b>	  <b>Place &amp; Date:</b>



