

OPENING CEREMONY

World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders Rabat, Morocco, 1-4 October 2013

Background, challenges and opportunities

1. The 2nd edition of the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders will take place from 1st – 4th October this year. The City of Rabat, Morocco will host this event, organised by United Cities and Local Governments - global organisation of local and regional authorities.
2. “Summits” bringing together Head of States or national governments are commonplace, however in the world today and in the world of tomorrow, decision making cannot exclusively be limited to a single level of government: decisions taken at local level or other sub-national levels are equally as important. Furthermore, it is not uncommon for leaders of towns, cities or local authorities to be at the forefront in taking important steps in fostering wellbeing and inciting citizens to react.
3. As the United Nations and the international community prepare to take stock of the Millennium Development Goals and to define a new development programme for the next twenty to thirty years, it is also time for local and regional authorities to come together to set forth the **Cities and Regions’ Agenda for the 21st Century**. The 4th Congress will be central to reflection on the theme of **“Imagine Society, Build Democracy”**.
4. Following our Manifesto regarding “The Cities of 2030”, approved by the World Congress held in Mexico and within the framework of the one hundredth **anniversary of the local government movement in the world**, UCLG proposes that the forthcoming world gathering of local and regional authorities address the **foundations of governance: how to build our future together**.
5. The future of our planet concerns us all, regardless of where we live. In view of this, local and regional governments must contribute their vision in defining the world we aspire to achieve.
6. Ensuring access to basic services and building plural societies that are open to innovation and that promote tolerance, solidarity and exchange, is at the heart of the international movement advocated by UCLG. Gender equality in political, economic and social contexts and the reinforcement of the role of culture in our societies must lead the action of local and regional authorities.
7. **“Imagine Society and Build Democracy”**, the guiding principle of the congress, involves broad-based and permanent dialogue between local and regional authorities, with the involvement of all partners – international organisations, development agencies, experts and actors – as well as civil society organisations, to analyse and assess which development goals have been accomplished and to set new priorities together.

The main themes of the Summit are the following:

1. **Fostering Wellbeing**
2. **Strengthening solidarity among territories**
3. **Supporting new local governance and the dynamics of change**
4. **Promoting diversity**

OPENING CEREMONY:

Wednesday 2 October, 14:15-18:30

14:15 Meeting of Dignitaries

14:30 – 16:00 FORMAL OPENING

- **His Majesty the King of Morocco Mohamed VI**, or representative
- **Joan Clos**, Under Secretary of the United Nations, Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Founding President of UCLG
- **Khalifa Sall**, Mayor of Dakar, Senegal, President of UCLG Africa
- **Kadir Topbas**, Mayor of Istanbul, President of UCLG, Member of the UN Post 2015 HLP
- **Fathallah Oulalaou**, Mayor of Rabat, Morocco, Host of the 4th UCLG World Congress

16:00-16:30 Commemoration of the International Movement Centennial

Tribute to the Founding Members of UCLG 1913 to 2013

- **Bertrand Delanoë**, Mayor of Paris, Founding President of Honour UCLG
- **Joan Clos**, Under Secretary of the United Nations, Executive Director of UN-Habitat, Founding President of UCLG
- **Alan Lloyd**, Former President of IULA
- **Mercedes Bresso**, Former President of UTO

Without intermezzo

OPENING PLENARY: 16:30 -18:30

INTRODUCTION

- **Roger Myerson**, Nobel Prize for Economics, Professor at the University of Chicago

DEBATE

- **Al-Nasser**, UN High Representative For the Alliance of Civilizations
- **Xavier Trias**, Mayor of Barcelona
- **Andris Piebalgs**, EU Commissioner for Development
- **Omar Azziman**, Councillor for the King of Morocco, President of the Consultative Committee on Regionalism (Morocco)
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