

UCLG

World Forum of

Intermediary Cities

Kütahya, Turkey

Kütahya Declaration of Intermediary Cities of the World

Second UCLG World Forum of Intermediary Cities

"Life Systems for a Resilient Future"

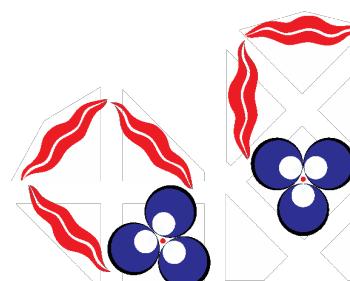
Kütahya, 8 October 2021

Over the past years, we are seeing the world transform. This transformation calls on us to move from the implementation of the global agendas to address the development of an emerging world, driven by a Common Agenda, that brings to life new models of living together. To achieve this new world, we will need new models of development and new ways of thinking livability of the planet to build the post-Covid era. In short, we need to reassess what is essential to face new challenges.

We need a world that cares for its citizens, that continues strengthening the human dimension of our systems, through local solidarity in order to achieve the global goals, from a human scale that is essentially found in intermediary cities, whatever their size.

We need to continue defending the local resources, biodiversity and quality of life laying on the rural/urban systems, as well as providing access to basic services in their territories such as education, healthcare, and transport to all communities, regardless of origin in order to reduce inequalities and deliver a peaceful world.

Leaders of Intermediary Cities, present in their diversity, gathered at global level to the second UCLG World Forum of Intermediary Cities held in Kütahya from 5 to 8 October 2021.



From Chefchaouen to Kütahya

We recognize the outcomes of the First UCLG World Forum held in Chefchaouen from 5 to 7 July 2018 and the Chefchaouen Declaration, as the pathway to generate local agendas for the implementation of the global sustainable development agendas and goals, as well as the UCLG thematic consultative discussions held in May 2021, with a view to bring the common voice of intermediary cities to the local, national and international levels in a crucial moment for our societies;

We salute the Turkish experience and the leadership of the city of Kütahya and the support provided by the public authorities and their partners during the good discussions held at the 2nd World Forum,

We are convinced that intermediary cities are pivotal in building life systems for a resilient future, and therefore:

We commit to:

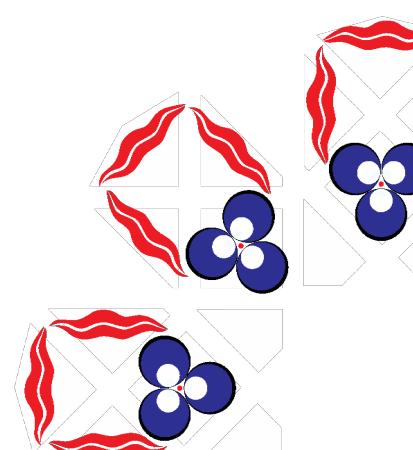
Continue working as a network of networks and working in partnerships between UCLG World Fora to develop concrete actions within the network and with our key partners that will complement the orientations identified below in the form of an Action Plan, and commit to pursue the actions towards holding the third UCLG World Forum of Intermediary Cities.

Continue working on the following strategies to enhance the generation of new models of development, and continue implementing an economic, human, social, cultural and environmental transformation:

Intermediary cities for enhancing the human dimension of transformation

We acknowledge that cities and metropolises concentrate greater human capital, and that given their size and pivotal role intermediary cities are particularly well placed to ensure justice for all and that intermediary cities are guarantors of **services of proximity**, facilitating collective action as communities are smaller and tightly knit;

We commit to continue promoting intermediary cities as key drivers to foster **stakeholder and community collaboration**, and continue promoting intermediary cities as social reconnectors through the strengthening of alliances with youth, women, other spheres of government and the international community; and continue exploring a more positive narrative when discussing rural areas and their contribution to development;



We commit to recognize **citizenship value** grounded in rural and urban life territories, and in participatory processes as an inclusion tool to integrate vulnerable groups, and the development of instruments to measure the participation of different actors in the life of the territory and decision-making processes, paying particular attention to the inclusion of minorities and rural-urban communities.

We commit to promote the intermediary city's function of development as a school of democracy, and as an essential to bring greater legitimacy, transparency and trust to public action, including opening new inclusive spaces for deliberation to support **intergenerational dialogue, gender equality** and **democratic innovation**.

Intermediary cities for a society of care

We acknowledge that the period of crisis has increased the pressure on intermediary cities, but has enabled to rethink a life system based **on care and healthy living**, through more inclusive basic services including universal access to health, **mobility, food systems**, and **more sustainable working patterns**; and that intermediary cities are spaces that allow for new ways of looking at health, prosperity, and generating care;

We commit to promote the role of intermediary cities as a rural-urban entity, securing greener areas and **caring jobs**, the collaboration with SMEs, among others; and to explore the role of digitalization as a critical driver to achieve social justice in cities and territories;

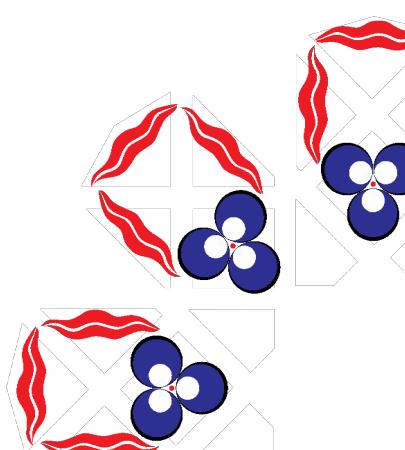
We commit to continue promoting **female leadership** in strengthening intermediary cities as a cradle for positioning women in public office, and continue working on internal displacements, and promote **migration** as a motor of development for caring economies.

Intermediary cities for climate justice

We acknowledge that intermediary cities are strategically positioned to **protect life systems, nature and biodiversity** beyond their boundaries and to care for their hinterland and ecosystems; and that **financial and economic resilience** of local and regional authorities is paramount to achieve ecological transformation;

We commit to promote the role of **culture** as a critical driver to achieve carbon neutrality, resilience and ecological transformation in cities and territories.

To make these visions and commitments a reality, we call international organizations, financial institutions, national governments and our key partners:



To **root** the global development agendas in the human values, knowledge and experiences of intermediary cities.

To **materialize multi-level dialogue** as a regulatory mechanism for the acceleration of the implementation of the global agendas and post-Covid world, and promote integrated models of governance involving all levels of governments: national governments, metropolitan governments and rural authorities.

To continue defend **local democracy and social inclusion**, the conditions to ensure that no one and no place is left behind;

To continue generating **a structured, inclusive and constructive dialogue with national governments**, in the development of national policies, with a view to developing a national strategy for intermediary cities that strengthens their assets, supports solidarity between cities within the same national systems, and positions them as an integral part of co-development at the national level.

To continue **building the capacity of intermediary cities** and propose a collective tax system through a **pooling funds for forgotten cities** in order to better access the financial market and an **Intermediary Cities Green Fund** to be used to support biodiversity, the treatment of endemic plants and transparency in the management of natural resources and ecosystems that reinforce the ecological transition.

We welcome the **greater relevance of the Intermediary Cities agenda on the international scene**, in particular by the G20 and its forthcoming Platform on SDG Localization and Intermediary Cities announced in Matera. We commit to continue working towards an action-oriented agenda to address intermediary cities' knowledge, policy, financing and capacity gaps and to better connect them to national strategies and those of international partners. We will work in close coordination and with the support of the international community, including the current Italian and forthcoming G20 Presidencies, international institutions such as the OECD and its Development Centre, UN-Habitat, UNDP, UNEP and our international partners, including Cities Alliance. We commit to contribute to a renewed strategy of our network through a **Pact for the Future** and its three axes: People, Planet and Government.

Building on the strength of the values of **solidarity, responsibility, transparency and service** that characterize our century-old global movement, we, intermediary cities of the world, commit to contributing to an equal and resilient post-COVID recovery based on this Declaration and to continue contributing to the global agendas by bringing the rich experiences of our territories, centered on human values, to them, and by acting as a bridge between all urban, metropolitan and rural communities.

