

## Statement to be delivered by United Cities and Local Governments

Stakeholders Consultation towards UN Water Conference 2023, 24 October 2022

Access to water and sanitation has been recognized by the UN as a human right and it is our duty to now fully implement this right at all levels starting from the local.

For this to happen, a territorial approach towards water governance is key, as it is usually up to local and regional governments to take care of those who work day-to-day to provide basic services to our communities, to value their contributions to society, to ensure decent work and to foster a model of production that is people-centred and that puts service provision, and providers, at the forefront.

For this to happen, we will need to increase the recognition of the role of associations, networks, peer-to-peer cooperation and decentralised cooperation on water: this contribution is not often looked at and represents a considerable pillar of national and global development.

We also need to increase capacity building from the ground-up: accelerating the localization of SDG6 also means increasing the means of implementation at local level to reach the sustainable development goals.

Decentralisation, multilevel governance and water: decentralization and subsidiarity are the key for success, and increased competences and resources at local level.

Dialogue amongst all spheres of government and an effective decentralization must be carried out to ensure that the wants and needs of citizens are present within all governance mechanisms and that they reflect reality on the ground.