

Statement

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Theme of the Forum ***"Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels."***

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Dear Excellencies, Distinguished guests, dear partners

It is an honor to be here representing the World Organization of United Cities and Local Governments at this 2023 edition of the ECOSOC Partnership Forum. Allow me to start by thanking our hosts for inviting us to deliver this statement.

The global pandemic and the multiple crises felt today have made it clear that we need to address the renewal of the multilateral system to respond to the challenges and opportunities of the urban era, to the attacks mounted on democracy, and the continued marginalization of vulnerable groups.

We need to develop a system which fosters co-creation in policymaking and that goes beyond mere partnership. Local and regional governments have been fulfilling their duties transforming their relationship with civil society ensuring that all groups and sectors are included within policymaking.

This is the way to shape the future among generations and to deliver universal local public service provision through the protection of global public goods. We celebrate recently established UN committees and boards which include inputs from all stakeholders. The role of the UN must go one step beyond, ensuring that said mechanisms are consolidated to deliver a networked and inclusive multilateral system, rising up to become a true representative parliament for all actors.

The Pact for the Future of Humanity, adopted at the UCLG World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders, recognizes that the transformation of our systems cannot be done by one single actor alone.

Excellencies, dear partners and colleagues, we need to foster transformation and invest in multilevel governance, guaranteeing local and regional governments and civil society are fully engaged by holding a permanent seat at decision-making tables. Only then can we realize an international system that restores trust, builds peace and sustainability from the bottom-up, forming the base of a new social contract driven by local action.