

Draft Statement

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Theme of the Forum ***"Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions."***

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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 and the Local Authorities Major Group at this 2024 edition of the ECOSOC Partnership Forum. Allow me to start by thanking our hosts for inviting us to deliver this statement.

The multiple crises felt today have made it clear that we need to shift the ways in which we structure our societies, our governance systems, our economies, and our relationship with the planet. Whether it be due to increased natural disasters aggravated by climate change, the marginalization of disadvantaged groups, or attacks to democracy, it is beyond any doubt that we must work together to overcome these challenges and achieve the SDGs.

To do this, we must address the renewal of the multilateral system and foster partnership and multi-stakeholder action co-created from the bottom up. Local and regional governments have been fulfilling their duties, protecting people and the planet, through local public service provision and as key conveners of partnerships with civil society and local communities.

2024 will prove to be a key year thanks to the UN Summit of the Future. The UN's Pact for the Future must recognize the key role that local and regional governments and multi-stakeholder action play in achieving international agendas and consequently propose concrete ways forward to ensure that these actors' voices are heard within global decision-making processes.

To this end, our ambition and call as constituency of local and regional governments is that a structured relationship is established with the multilateral system so that we, mayors and governors from around the world, as sphere of government responsible for policy making at the local level and the localization of the SDGs, are fully engaged in this second half to 2030.

Excellencies, only by guaranteeing local and regional governments and civil society a permanent seat at the decision-making tables can we realize an international system that restores trust, builds peace and sustainability in all territories, forming the base of a new social contract driven by local action.