



Local Authorities Major Group, gathered within the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, facilitated by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

<https://www.global-taskforce.org/>

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Chapeau

The Local Authorities Major Group calls for the Chapeau of the Pact for the Future to:

- Commend the **Localization of the global agendas for sustainable development** as a means to rescue the SDGs and bring about meaningful change at scale grounded on democracy, social justice, and sustainability.
- Recognize **local public service provision as a precondition for the achievement of the SDGs**, ensuring that all communities, regardless of administrative status or any other condition, can live healthy, fulfilling and sustainable lives, through the provision of water and sanitation, housing, food security, education and health care, among other services.
- Harness the transformative commitments and actions of local and regional governments towards the 2030 Agenda to **reduce inequalities, leave no one and no place behind and foster peace, even amid the worst crises**.
- Acknowledge that effective change at scale will only be possible by rethinking our relationship with nature, placing solidarity and a rights-based approach at the core of global decision-making and action, for **a just ecological transition across world regions and the urban-rural continuum**.
- Commit to **renew multilevel governance, multilateralism and the global financial architecture** to create institutional environments that facilitate **SDG localization**, based on the principles of subsidiarity, decentralization and self-government. This includes including local and regional governments in global decision-making processes, as they have demonstrated the power of place- and solidarity-based policy-making to advance **a new social contract for equality and democracy**, even amid global complex emergencies.

Chapter I. Sustainable development and financing for development

The Local Authorities Major Group calls for Chapter 1 of the Pact for the Future to:

- Foster **universal and equitable access to local public services** and acknowledge their role in reducing inequalities and poverty. Highlight local and regional governments' commitment to redefine **healthcare and other public services as local and global commons**.
- Emphasize the need to guarantee **equal rights, dignity and opportunities for all** – with special attention to women and girls, and other structurally discriminated

groups. This includes guaranteeing the **right to the city** to all, including migrants and residents of informal settlements.

- Promote informed and sustained **citizen's participation in public and political life**, and foster multistakeholder governance at all levels. This includes recognizing local and regional governments as the sphere of government closest to the people and guardians of democracy.
- Prioritize collective, bottom-up ways of going about politics, inspired by **local women and feminist leaders renewing governance principles** to achieve equality, care, social cohesion and peace in all communities and territories.
- Recognize **local and regional governments as the conveners of community action for ecological transition** and custodians of our local and global commons.
- Promote the integration and empowerment of **local and regional governments in global conversations and agreements for climate adaptation and mitigation** to forge a new relationship with nature based on proximity, circularity and social justice with gender equality at the core.
- Highlight the role of **urban planning** in building more sustainable and just cities and territories based on proximity and participation, and consider **SDG 11** an essential enabler of all other SDGs.
- Foster the transition to **renewable energy systems** as a pressing priority to a more sustainable and just future.
- Strengthen multilevel governance, localize finance, and recognize the role of decentralized cooperation for universal access to, and sustainable and equitable use of **water**.
- Recall local initiatives to **transform patterns of production and consumption**, including through sustainable and inclusive **local food systems**.
- Acknowledge **local economic development** prioritizing quality of life, **decent work** and fair pay for all, rather than growth and economic performance.
- Recognize the role of **culture** as a motor for sustainable development and climate action, and the role of local and regional governments in fostering culture and protecting cultural heritage and rights.
- Rethink financing and revenue streams to achieve the global agendas through a renewed fiscal architecture and directly targeting financing mechanisms **empowering local and regional governments to strengthen their own resources and localize the SDGs**. In particular, urge for the **channeling of mitigation and adaptation finance and loss and damages funds directly to local and regional governments** to implement climate-resilient development.
- Call for **finance to be put at the service of care for humans and the planet, and common goods and commoning practices** at all levels.

Chapter II. International peace and security

The Local Authorities Major Group calls for Chapter 2 of the Pact for the Future to:

- Embrace **city diplomacy** as preventive diplomacy to build peace at the community level, addressing conflict before it turns into violent action.
- Emphasize **women's full participation in public and political life at all levels** as essential to achieving social cohesion, peace, and resilience.

- Build upon local and regional governments' leadership in **ensuring policies fostering social cohesion, gender equality and trust**, by addressing structural inequalities, recognizing diversity, and facilitating peaceful coexistence.
- Recognize the **local dimension of sustainable development** as a central enabler to peacebuilding and conflict prevention.
- Promote peaceful societies by upholding **local democracy**, through equitable representation, inclusive participation, solidarity and cooperation.
- Recognize local and regional governments' frontrunning initiatives for the **elimination of structural discrimination and all forms of violence**, reaffirming and fulfilling human rights, human security, and gender equality. This includes governing **human mobility with a rights-driven, people-centered approach** and moving from border-centered approaches to local public service provision that promotes the rights of all neighbors regardless of status.
- Foster an inclusive, networked and multilevel global governance system for **enhanced international cooperation grounded on decentralization, subsidiarity, solidarity and human rights** – one that includes the voices of local and regional governments, ensuring the buy-in of all communities through strategies built from the bottom-up.
- Consider that **financing for international peacebuilding, peacekeeping, social cohesion, violence prevention, reconciliation and recovery** needs to include enabling resource allocation to local and regional governments, including financial support, cooperation and territorial action, and leveraging existing mechanisms such as the UN Peacebuilding Fund.
- Take into consideration **local and regional governments' frontline role in the responses to emergencies and in rescuing the SDGs** amid crises, by structurally integrating them in global decision-making, including in the foreseen Emergency Platform and global recovery plans.

Chapter III. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation

The Local Authorities Major Group calls for Chapter 3 of the Pact for the Future to:

- Consider the importance of involving **local and regional governments in technology, innovation and digital cooperation policy** to ensure that the deployment of science and technology is used to promote sustainability, inclusivity, prosperity, and human rights.
- Take into account and prioritize local financing for local public services and foster investments that put care, accessibility, gender equality, transparency, effectiveness and inclusion at the center of **digital public infrastructure** and use of **artificial intelligence**.
- Foster a **people and human centric approach to smart cities** and digital innovation that takes into account the basic needs of people and protects their digital rights.
- Promote truthful independent and accountable information sources to **combat the spread of misinformation, counter hate speech**, threats, and violence online.
- Foster **open, accessible and verifiable information and data** to promote inclusion, education and communication.

- Address **gender disparities in access to education and work, as well as in digital technology policy** to ensure a fair and sustainable digital transition,
- **Anchor research and innovation processes at local and regional levels through co-creation** with grassroots organizations, indigenous groups, the private sector and local policymakers to ensure that data on needs of local communities and ecosystems are monitored, analyzed and deployed to enhance living conditions and protect biodiversity.

Chapter IV. Youth and future generations

The Local Authorities Major Group calls for Chapter 4 of the Pact for the Future to:

- Promote **local public service provision as an essential lever for education, participation and equality** for all children and young persons. Education, culture and participation are at the heart of local and regional government commitments to provide equal opportunities and empower all young people and children, with a particular focus on girls and children from poor families.
- Acknowledge local and regional governments' efforts to rebuild **children and young people's hope and trust in public institutions** and foster their participation in policy-making, as a way to empower them to thrive and take action in our governments and societies, for inclusion, social cohesion and peace.
- Consider the role of local and regional governments in regards to the **future of work and social protection**, beyond legislation and job provision. Support the transition to a low-carbon circular economy with a focus on generating accessible green local jobs, and the corresponding skills needed.
- Call for a **meaningful engagement and structural participation of local governments and local youth-led and youth-focused movements and organizations** in all global decision-making processes related to sustainable development and future generations.
- **Harness the power of culture as the motor of the just transition**, especially among youth, women and indigenous peoples.

Chapter V. Transforming global governance

The Local Authorities Major Group calls for Chapter 5 of the Pact for the Future to:

- **Consider local and regional governments as central actors for achieving a reinvigorated, effective multilateralism.** The integration of locally elected representatives in intergovernmental processes is vital for representing local constituencies in international deliberations, as well as for translating global norms into concrete actions on the ground for implementing the SDGs.
- Harness the **renewal of multilateralism and the global financial architecture from the bottom up**, with local and regional governments and local communities at the center, fostering adequate representation in decision-making bodies, stressing the importance of feminist leadership and power-sharing at all levels of government,



bringing the voices of local communities into global conversations, and renewing the notion of partnerships based on cooperation, peace and solidarity.

- Acknowledge the **collaboration existing between levels of government on Voluntary Local and Subnational Reviews (VLRs and VSRs)** which promote the alignment of national and local development plans with the SDGs and reinforce multilevel governance mechanisms in national strategies for SDG implementation and Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).
- Highlight the protection and **promotion of all public institutions** to ensure the **integrity of the justice system**, and equal access for all people to local public services.
- Strengthen local finance and **rethink the global fiscal architecture** to ensure secure revenue streams for improved planning and investment at the local level; **foster fiscal decentralization**; and recall the importance of transparent budgeting to facilitate balanced revenue generation and equitable pricing for all local services.