



Assembly Metropolis and Forum of the Regions-UCLG

BEYOND THE METROPOLIS: Megacities, Regions and Territories

Day: Thursday, October 13th, 2022

Time: 12:00-13:30

Interpretation: EN-ES-FR

Room: DCC1-301

The urban revolution of the 19th and, in particular, the 20th century, brought more than half of humanity to live in urban settings and changed the contours of the city beyond recognition, blurring its boundaries and spreading its footprint into a new, larger and ever-expanding shape: the metropolis. In the 21st century, unprecedented levels of urban agglomeration, the transformation of mobility and connectivity patterns, the progressive blending of areas of influence of previously distinct urban centers, and the emergence of territorial networks of cities with complementary roles and high interdependence are expanding the metropolis into new configurations. We are witnessing the emergence of Megacities, urban agglomerations that exceed 10 million inhabitants; Metropolitan regions, whose functional reality goes far beyond the areas surrounding the traditional metropolis and take into account factors such as energy, food production, ecosystems and a diverse range of different mobility patterns; Megaregions, in which several metropolitan areas are connected in a networked territorial ensemble; and other specific configurations (urban corridors, megalopolises, twin metropolises, etc.).

This new reality of territorial development requires redefining the current governance framework. A framework that includes the territorial approach and a new vision that addresses the challenges created by areas that are even more interconnected and interdependent. In this context, regions emerge as an intermediate level of government that often manages a polycentric territory and has the capacity to work at different scales: on the one hand, they can establish strategic visions and long-term planning horizons, and on the other, they are able to govern daily life and execute their own budgets.

The unique profile of regions and megacities makes them necessary partners for the implementation of global sustainability agendas in their planning, legislation and management. Working in a joint and articulated manner to achieve the challenges of equity, sustainability, end of poverty, migration management, among others, makes them strategic drivers in the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals.



A global group of urban and regional leaders convened by Metropolis, the world association of major cities and metropolitan areas, and the UCLG Forum of Regions, will discuss this new urban reality based on their first-hand knowledge and within the framework of the **Pact for the Future**. The aim is to promote collective action, empowerment and co-creation between national, local and regional governments, citizens, universities, the private sector and the third sector.

Driving questions:

- How can megacities and regions make multilevel coordination (city-metropolis-region) more efficient?
- How to manage associative schemes for territorial management that recognize and protect the environmental, economic and political diversity of communities?
- What new policies and concepts are needed to manage them for the benefit of their inhabitants and the planet?
- How do we scale up the planning, governance, participation, technology and management tools to face up to the challenge?
- How can Urban Agendas articulate a new relationship between the urban and the natural-rural?
- What contributions can these new spaces make to address the world's challenges, in particular climate change and the reduction of inequality?



Participants:

1. Ms. **Claudia López**, Metropolis President and Mayor of Bogotá.
2. Mr. **Pablo Jurado**, President of the Forum of Regions, Vice President of UCLG, President of CONGOPE and Mayor of Imbabura.
3. Mr. **Nicholas You**, Executive Director, Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation.
4. Ms. **Maria Galindo**, Director General for Digital Nation and Urban Agenda at Government of Catalonia.
5. Ms. **Bouaida Mbarka**, President of the Association of Moroccan Regions, and President of the Guelmim-Oued Noun Region
6. Megacity (TBC)
7. Ms. **Antònia Sabartés**, Forum of the Regions Coordinator
8. Mr. **Jordi Vaquer**, Secretary General, Metropolis.

Agenda:

Welcome	Antònia Sabartés	2 min
Opening remarks	Jordi Vaquer	4 min
The necessary territorial articulation within the framework of the Pact for the Future	Pablo Jurado	12 min
TBD	Claudia López	12 min
The urban innovation at megacities scale	Nicholas You	10 min
The New Urban Agenda as catalyzer of urban innovation and territorial cohesion	Maria Galindo	10 min
TBD	Bouaida Mbarka	10 min
Governance in megacities in the context of emergencies	TBD	10 min
Q&A and Wrap-up	Moderated by Jordi Vaquer	20 min