

TOOLKIT

This document is an easy guide for local governments and their associations on how to participate in the United Nations' UN75 consultation and beyond.

It pays special attention at the possibility to organize consultation among political representatives on how they envisage the role of our constituency in the future multilateral system.



#ShapingOurFuture

On the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations, **the UN Secretary-General has launched a global conversation on the role of global cooperation in building the future.** He considers this consultation a milestone to capture the views of the global public and stakeholders from all sectors on the future of multilateralism and its role in managing global trends, including climate change, changing demographics, new technologies and inequalities.

As part of its mandate to enhance the role of local governments in international policy making, and given that the local and regional government's constituency will be at the heart of managing these challenges, **UCLG has confirmed its commitment to promoting the UN75 initiative,** by disseminating the online survey (<http://un75.online>) and increasing the number of people consulted and the diversity of those engaged.

During the 2020 UCLG Retreat held in Tangier from 24 to 28 February, the groundbreaking, dynamic con-

sultation commenced in a session in which the local and regional governments constituency, representing local governments, regions and their associations, together with international organizations, civil society and academia started to co-create and define the specific questions that will be answered by the constituency on the future of multilateralism, the future of the UN, and in general on the future it wants in 2045, the year that marks the 100th anniversary of the UN.

Moreover, the constituency expressed its priorities and set the global trends that it would like the questions to focus on, namely the ecological transition, peace and solidarity, equality and justice, and the right to the city, among others.

#UN75 decided to #Listen2Cities

Upon request of the United Nations, UCLG has committed to facilitate a Report on the vision of local and regional leaders of the challenges ahead, the future we imagine, and an inclusive and networked multilateral

system that is fit for purpose to meet these aspirations.

The Report should reflect the visions of world regions but also that of the different types of local governments and has the most diverse and inclusive approach possible towards the constituency as a whole.

UCLG members and Sections are invited to organize consultations. Also, all members of the Global Taskforce are invited to participate.

A draft report needs to be presented to the United Nations in June.

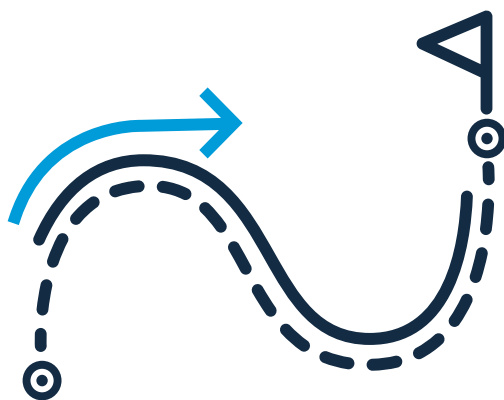
The final version is envisaged to be presented to the UN Secretary General in September within the framework of the UN General Assembly.



THE CONCERNS OF THE CONSTITUENCY

Global action, learning and exchange is in the very DNA of the international municipal system with its origins in 1913. Our Municipal Diplomacy is based on the very notion of need to learn from each other and acknowledging the interconnectivity of our destiny as humanity. This becomes even more relevant in the era of urbanization when the solutions to many of our worldwide challenges need to be led from our cities, big and small and with a territorial approach-based solidarity.

In a world where local and regional governments are currently leading the way, with half of the global population and over 70% of its economy, the time to “beg” to be represented in the global system is over.



- **Is it up to local and regional governments, together with member states, to deliver the global agreements? What kind of system is fit for purpose to be able to accelerate implementation and achieve the global goals?**
- **What is the new model of governance that allows us to achieve the localization of the goals that we committed to?**
- **What governance do we need for our interconnected future?**
- **Are Local and Regional Governments seeing and imagining themselves as the spaces in which transformation is taking place?**
- **What is our role in delivering the global agreements?**
- **What kind of system is fit for purpose to be able to accelerate implementation and achieve the global goals?**
- **How do we imagine our place in a renewed UN System?**



What are they for?

The regional and specific consultation are a series of engagement meetings of local elected representatives and practitioners in which the key issues to be addressed in the report will be debated.

Who organizes?

Who convenes?

UCLG Sections, Local and Regional Governments' Associations or local and regional government members can convene a session. Special attention will be paid to Sections.

Who should give their opinion?

UCLG leadership Representatives of local and regional governments;
Local & Regional Government Associations Officials and practitioners

What is expected of the participants?

To provide inputs and answers to the global questions. To provide a vision on the world we want for the future. To disseminate among communities the UN75 general conversation and encourage participation. Give visibility to the consultation on social media.

Where and when?

Consultations can be organized either by in-person meetings or on line. Organizations are encouraged to use the existing activities as the framework of consultations.



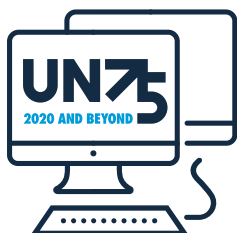


The Report will be structured in 4 segments. An introduction and 3 chapters.

The Introduction: Will provide the overview of our constituency’s call for a seat at the table. It will provide the background on the movement and will also include the perspective of key partners that our movement has been working with during the past’s decade. It will build the argument for the necessity to change the paradigms and the existing models of multilateralism. The following ideas, our patrimony as movement will be at the center:

- City Diplomacy is Transformative Diplomacy.
- Local Democracy is and should be in the heart of peaceful and just societies.
- The seat at the table of our constituencies is a strong link of communities with international institutions.
- From an international system-built post wars to an inter-urban system at the urbanization era.

The structure of the 3 Chapters is designed to speak to the UN75 sur-



vey with a specific perspective of our constituency.

The first chapter reflects on the world we live in in 2020: its main systemic challenges, the global trends both positive and negative that determine the work of local and regional governments today, the obstacles they face and also the global frameworks that regulate them.

A world in which **centralization trends** are affecting local democratic self-governance and thus the capacity of our communities to own the global goals and truly contribute to the SDGs. The Universal Development Agendas, chief among them the 2030 Agenda, the New Urban Agenda, and the Paris Agreement, represent a **new social contract that needs to be fulfilled**, and the urgency to do so becomes greater when faced with challenges that threaten the very core of our planet.

Our current development model, in spite of the transformative efforts of the global development agendas, is also rooted in an artificial urban-rural dichotomy that does not under-

stand how the relationship between rural and urban areas are evolving.

The **climate emergency** that our planet faces, the unfulfilled civil demands, and the growing inequalities are showcasing the limits of our current action, and are even putting the **current human rights** to the test on how, and if, our current conception of human rights can evolve for the coming decades.

The current model of governance needs to shift, by 2045, if we are to transform the world according to the dreams of our communities. The current **international system** is one of **sparse international cooperation** that does not consider all of the stakeholders as equally necessary for transformation. A top down approach towards governance that ultimately deems local and regional governments and other stakeholders that defend and protect the multilateral system as secondary actors.

A **second chapter** on the world expected in 2045 and the constituency’s vision for 25 years from now: this vision should provide an answer to



the issues raised in 2020 and should also provide continuity to the trends raised in the previous section.

A **decentralized** world and multilateral system with strong local community participation in the international architecture will reinforce the push towards the achievement of future social contracts and empowered communities will take **full ownership** of the localization processes.

We imagine a world with an integrated planning approach, as reflected in the New Urban Agenda, to strengthen the inclusive dimension of cities, climate adaptation and mitigation and disaster risk prevention strategies, and multiply the benefits of **interlinkages between urban and territorial areas**.

In 2045, a new relationship between our society and the natural world will become a reality built on the principles of solidarity and territories as the living spaces of human values and actions: the true **ecological transition**. A world centered on the basis of the principles of **social justice, equity, democracy and sustainability** where all inhabitants (present and future; per-

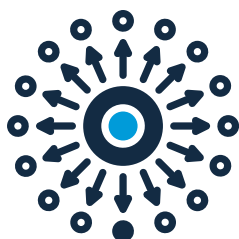
manent and temporary) will be able to use, occupy, produce, govern and enjoy just, inclusive, safe and sustainable cities, villages and settlements (**Right to the City**). An inclusive global governance will lead 2045 driven by solidarity and peace preserving our planet. For this, we will need to bring about changes in the way we co-create the territory, by **empowering the community** and to harness the power of co-production of our cities and territories. We will transition an international to an inter-urban system where Local and Regional Governments will consolidate as the spaces in which transformation takes place. Finally, the **last chapter** will answer what structural shift there must be in international multilateralism to face the reality we imagine in 2045.

The structural shift requires **co-creation** mechanisms that allow the allocation of competences and responsibilities of the different spheres of government and society both vertically and horizontally in accordance with the principle of **subsidiarity**. A shift in the approach will also be needed in order articulate the urban areas into the **wider territory** they

belong to, explicitly acknowledging the fundamental importance of understanding and promoting sustainable development across the whole urban-rural continuum.

In an ideal multilateralism, stronger collaboration and **dialogue across generations** will be vital to explore alternatives for delivering sustainable development in 2045. Special emphasis will be need on **defending the commons**, and placing local level **public service delivery** at the heart of the investments. A new generation of legal and policy frameworks, capacity building, peer to peer learning and political debates to move towards an urban model based on human rights and the right to the city should be developed.

The structural shift requires a better articulated international architecture based on a **networked, inclusive** and territorial multilateral system. The territorially integrated multilateral system will promote **bottom up** development and will tackle issues related to siloes and reach those 'furthest behind' first. A true international system that ensures all voices are truly heard.





➤ How should the consultations be shaped?

The consultations should take no more than 90 minutes, and be divided into three aspects, coinciding with the chapters of the Report:

The consultations can be held on-line, through platforms such as “Zoom”.

The current trends and challenges in 2020

1. What is our role in delivering the global agreements?
2. What are the three key defining traits of the current international system?
3. Is it up to local and regional governments, together with member states, to deliver the global agreements?

The world we expect in 2045

1. How have the current trends changed by the year 2045?
2. Are Local and Regional Governments seeing and imagining themselves as the spaces in which transformation is taking place?
3. What governance do we need for our interconnected future?

The structural shift that we expect to see

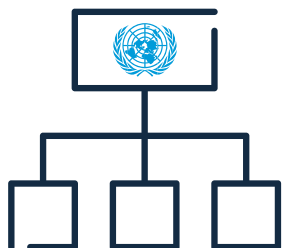
1. What is the new model of governance that has allowed us to achieve the localization of the goals that we committed to?
2. How do we imagine our place in this renewed UN System?
3. What are the tools set in place for us to carry out our role in the new system?

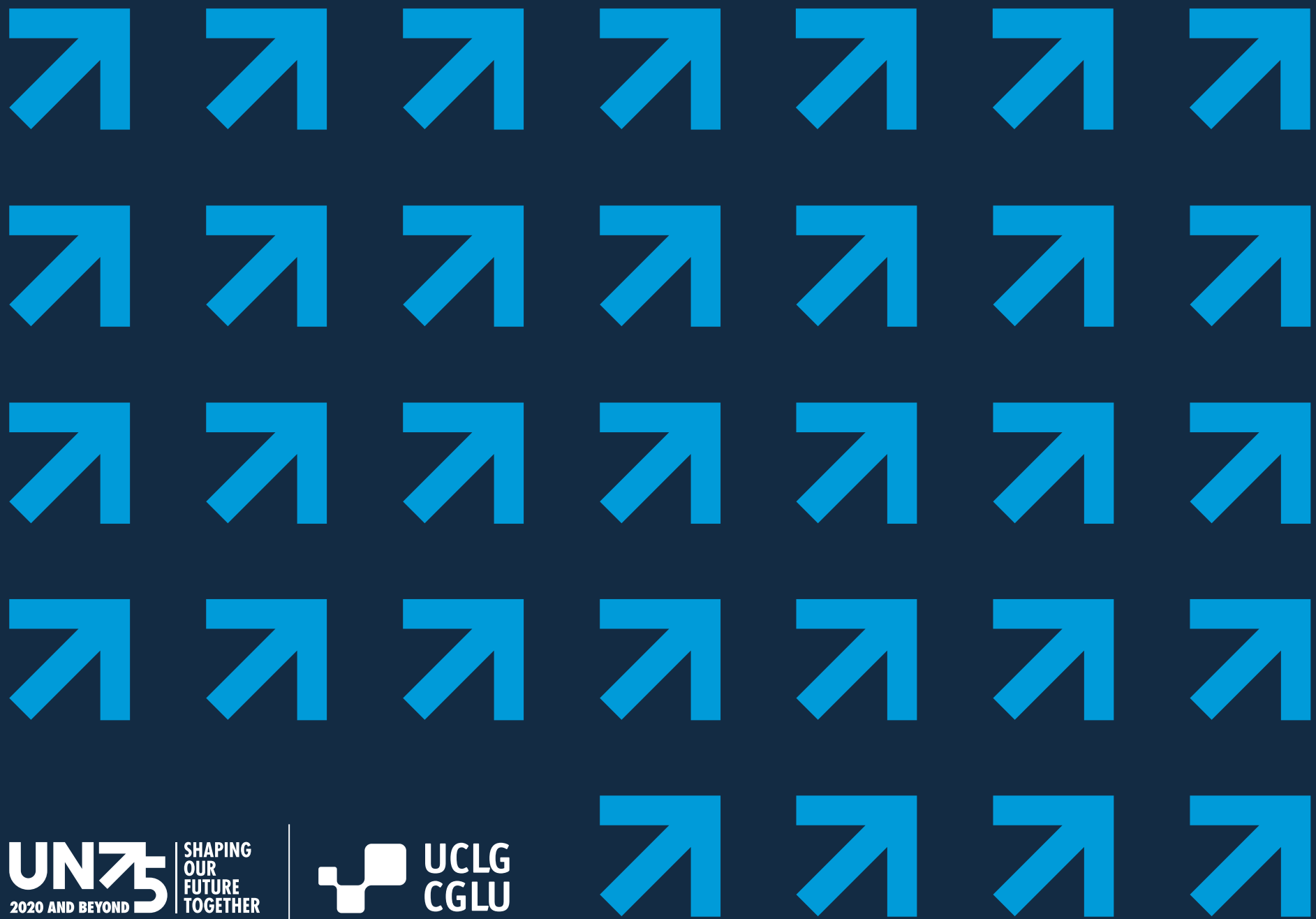
➤ What is to be expected?

A. It is expected for members to answer to the questions below in a political and open manner, bringing to the table the local expertise and the challenges that need to be answered for the future of our communities

B. It is expected for the regional sections to hold these consultations involving as many participants as possible, gathering their answers to ensure that the views from our membership from all over the world is heard.

C. It is expected for sections to give visibility to the consultation on social media.





UN75
2020 AND BEYOND

SHAPING
OUR
FUTURE
TOGETHER

 **UCLG
CGLU**