

## Intermediary Cities Consultation series Building towards the 2nd World Forum

### Intermediary Cities & Re-inventing Local Democracy

#### *The Human capital*

Date: 30th April, 2021 \_ 14:00-16:00 (CEST)

#### Concept note

This concept note is presenting the approach and objectives to be taken into account for the Human Capital Consultation in the post-COVID world in/for/by Intermediary Cities.

#### **Background: Civic engagement and participatory democracy**

During the pandemic, various forms of collaboration, mutual aid and citizen solidarity have emerged as fundamental to satisfy basic needs and maintain the social fabric. These forms of collaboration translate into participatory democracy when it comes to the political and institutional level. These experiences of co-creation, citizen participation and community engagement come to complement representative democracy by bringing greater legitimacy, proximity and effectiveness to political institutions, especially at the local level, where political and human relations are closer. Intermediary cities are ideal spaces for the promotion of participatory democracy, as places of connection between the rural world and urban space, between the less connected people and the center of political power.

This promotion of enhanced participatory democracy can be focused on two major challenges.

First, as an opportunity to reinvent democracy, to give greater legitimacy to institutions and to be authentic schools of rights and responsibilities for the people with the learning by doing democracy.

Furthermore, the deepening of democracy through the strengthening of human ties must be an opportunity to face the social and economic crisis that awaits us once we overcome the pandemic. We must rethink with collective intelligence how to provide opportunities for all, for the youth, for the rural population, for women...

For that we must enhance and empower the role and expression of the Human capital in the post-COVID world.

The expression during the COVID-19 lockdown of the voices that were asking for more equality, more respect for the natural world, more health in our life systems, and a better synergy between Man and nature in our way of living and unfold of daily life, did generate in some countries a transformation of model in the development model of these countries.

We need enabling conditions in the post-pandemic for these voices to express, better and higher, as well as replace/reposition the local government & authority as the key interlocution and trust for these voices to be heard and to be generators of transformation for Resilience. The UN 2030 Agenda, although remaining the general and global framework of action in the post-COVID, must find an expression and a multiplier of its effects on citizenship.

The Human capital in the post-COVID world must be a game changer of the Future of Democracy: in one hand understanding that democracy represents responsibilities for the citizens, as well as rights. On the other hand, the Intermediary Cities are crucial for this new redefinition of democracy, since the rural populations and the voices that were not heard up until now, must find their channel of expression.

This challenge was also stipulated in the Manifesto on re-inventing Democracy as one of the key results from Durban's Congress. With today's context, this Manifesto takes a new meaning: a need for the Human Capital to find its true empowerment.

Therefore, some formulas must be thought for/by Intermediary Cities and their territories to enhance a "double sense trust": from citizens towards the policy/politicians, and from the politicians towards the citizens.

**Objective of the session:** *A Code of Conduct*

This session will focus on receiving inputs from LRG, partners and experts from different regions and discuss what elements to bring to the Intermediary Cities Forum.

The ultimate objective of this specific consultation session is to contribute to the UCLG Pact for the Future through a Code of Conduct for/by Intermediary Cities, regarding governance and democracy, to find ways to alleviate the social pressure of the crisis in the Intermediary Cities on one hand, and enhancing the capacity given to the human value to rethink local democracy, as a critical line when drawing the post-COVID world, in terms of resilient citizenship.

This code of conduct will define basic criteria (rights & responsibilities) for the Intermediary Cities to be spaces of empowerment for the whole territory, as well improving the human resilience capacity in these rural-urban spaces, taking into consideration the features of proximity and human scale.

**Agenda for the session**

- Launching of the consultation series
  - Emilia Saiz, Secretary General of UCLG
  - Mohamed Sefiani, Mayor of Chefchaouen and president of Intermediary Cities World Forum
  - Alim Işık, Mayor of Kütahya, host of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Intermediary Cities World Forum
  - Mehmet Duman Secretary General of UCLG- MEWA
- *Concept 1: Intermediary cities: a school of democracy of/for/by citizenship*
  - Jose Manuel Ribeiro, Mayor of Valongo
  - Imen Ouardani, Deputy Mayor of Sousse
- *Concept 2: the Intermediary Cities: authenticity for inclusion*
  - Pedro Palacios, Mayor of Cuenca
  - Pam Belcher-Taylor, Mayor of Paynesville
- *Concept 3: Trust & Policies in the post-COVID world*
  - Emil Dardak, Vice-Governor of East Java
  - Nidai Güngördü, Mayor of Kyrenia
  - Ülgür Gökhan, Mayor of Çanakkale
  - Emmanuel Carroz, Deputy Mayor of Grenoble
- From an expertise point of view
  - Yves Cabannes, Emeritus Professor of Development Planning UCL
  - Ana Maria Vargas, Director of Research · Swedish Centre for Local Democracy ICLD
- Open debate

<https://www.uclg.org/en/agenda/intermediary-cities>

<https://intermediarycities.uclg.org/en>

<https://www.uclg.org/en/media/news/facilitating-pact-future-role-international-municipal-and-regional-movement-powered-uclg>