



Side Event

## INTEGRATED AND BALANCED TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT

The added value of regional governments towards the  
New Urban Agenda



### Date and location

Date: October 17th (Monday), 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Location: Room R9 at the venue of the Habitat III Conference, Casa de la Cultura Ecuatoriana "Benjamín Carrión".

Organizers: United Regions Organization (ORU Fogar) and Government of Catalonia.

Partners involved: nrg4SD, Basque Country, CONGOPE (Ecuador), Azuay Provincial Government (Ecuador), Findeter (Colombia).

### Background

Regional governments have the capacity to create and foster synergies that lead to the development of land planning and management as well as of urban policies. Indeed, with specific and vast competences on a broad range of areas required for the sustainability of territories, regions will be fundamental actors to ensure the success of the New Urban Agenda in the post-Habitat III scenario.

In the framework of this side event, regional institutions from Latin America and Europe will showcase good practices that exemplify their role as crucial enablers for a holistic and integrated territorial approach. With this aim, the session will focus on two concrete and relevant areas of intervention that serve regional governments to address the complexity and diversity of territories.

Firstly, policies of urban regeneration that intervene over consolidated city and territorial fabric are currently being implemented. Through recycling, refurbishment, transformation or endowment of planning and intervention tools, cities and regions have the capacity to adapt to new needs. At the same time, they can evolve while reducing soil consumption, keeping their compactness, strengthening their socioeconomic mix and avoiding social segregation. In addition, the ecological footprint is reduced, leading to a more efficient and environmentally sustainable territory.



Secondly, as the urbanization process does not end at urban boundaries, the interdependences and impacts of urban areas over rural, peri-urban and natural areas need to be taken into account. In this context, regional governments, as intermediate levels of governance, have vital competencies in assuring equitable and sustainable access and management of the resources, providing social security and services. At the same time, regions should foster the creation of institutional frameworks, based on coherence, coordination and cooperation to enable multi-level governance.

Overall, the will is to share and discuss with attendees the role of regional governments in line with the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

### **Preliminary Agenda**

- 1.- Introduction: Jordi Solé, Secretary for Foreign and EU Affairs, Catalan Government.
- 2.- Key-note speech on integrated and balanced territorial development: president of ORU Fogar (to be elected on 16th October at the General Assembly).
- 3.- Presentations of regional best-practices by regional governments:
  - Josep Rull, regional minister for Territory and Sustainability of Catalonia.
  - María Cecilia Alvarado, vice prefect of the Azuay Provincial Government.
  - Vicente Loureiro, Director of the Metropolitan Camera of State of Rio de Janeiro.
  - Ana Oregi, regional minister for Environment and Territorial Policy of the Basque Country.
  - Mercè Conesa, president of the Barcelona Provincial Government.
- 4.- Discussion between panelists and audience.
- 5.- Conclusions: Gustavo Baroja, president of CONGOPE (Consortio de Gobiernos Autónomos Provinciales del Ecuador).

Moderator: Jordi Solé, Government of Catalonia.

### **Language**

Spanish.