



XI GENERAL ASSEMBLY

WORLD FORUM OF REGIONS

« The Regions face the challenges of implementing
the three global agendas »

2030 Agenda, New Urban Agenda and Paris agreement

22-23TH OCTOBER 2018, RABAT

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

In less than a year, between 2015 and 2016, the international community adopted three ambitious and innovative agendas: 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the New Urban Agenda.

The central role of local and regional authorities in the implementation of these three international agendas is now indisputable and recognised, as they have a key responsibility in promoting sustainable and integrated territorial development.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement and the New Agenda for Cities explicitly set out the vision and aspirations of all components of the international community; including local and regional governments, and should therefore be integrated all local, regional, national and international initiatives.

It is now recognized that, to ensure effective implementation, the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) need to be territorialized and translated into concrete and integrated **territorial** development measures with a positive impact on local communities. Thus, the Sustainable Development Program until 2030 will not allow a positive transformation for citizens and the planet without the effective participation of intermediate governments and their appropriation by their citizens.

Furthermore, intermediate governments are now at the forefront of the fight against the adverse effects of climate change, which requires special attention to several issues such as energy production and consumption, development of adequate means of transport, drinking water supply, food security and agriculture, including citizen health and safety and urban property, education and training for greater resilience...

In fact, regional and intermediate governments are best placed to:

- Appreciate the environmental, social and economic realities of their regions and can provide valuable information to national governments in the development of public policies.
- Adapt its public policies to the specificities and needs of their territories within the framework of territorialized and integrated development programs.

Furthermore, the challenges that cities are facing in the face of rampant urbanization, population explosion and rural exodus require attention to the modalities of implementation of the New Urban Agenda in order to address emerging inequalities and promote more inclusive and sustainable cities.

Despite their strong heterogeneity, intermediate governments are called upon to catalyse an inclusive process, based on partnership, in accordance with the principles of democracy, aimed at thinking about and co-constructing the sustainable development of territories.

This legitimacy derives from their growing capacity to implement policies autonomously and to provide public goods and services, but also from their ability to bridge the "urban/rural" gap, a prerequisite for achieving many of the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda. They also generally have sufficient room for manoeuvre to review their practices in the light of new priorities and needs, in particular those of civil society.

They therefore become key partners in the implementation of the 2030 development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as in the joint elaboration of appropriate territorial development strategies for the implementation of development programs, with the aim of combating poverty, inequality, insecurity, climate change, creating jobs and increasing incomes, while strengthening the resilience of territories and populations to the impacts and disasters to which they are exposed.

Its action is an opportunity to promote the contributions of the territorial approach as a collective dynamic of mobilization, participation and innovation in terms of methods and instruments, exchange of good practices and promotion in order to mobilize more resources for the sustainable development and solidarity of the territories. From this perspective, the integration of policies and their territorial coherence in the framework of multi-level governance is essential to any strategy that seeks to respond to the sustainable development challenges that the territories are facing.

In this context, regional and intermediate governments are currently facing a triple challenge:

i) **Develop their capacity to create and manage mechanisms for dialogue and consultation at various levels:** the inclusion of actions promoting the sustainable development of territories by intermediate governments; within the framework of integrated approaches that make it possible to address simultaneously, within a framework of interdependence and all the dimensions of sustainable development, constitutes an important methodological and operational challenge for territorial action.

ii) **Develop their capacity to mobilize** and bring together actors in the financing chain to identify and promote innovative financing solutions, particularly in climate finance, that will enable the implementation of these international agreements at the territorial level.

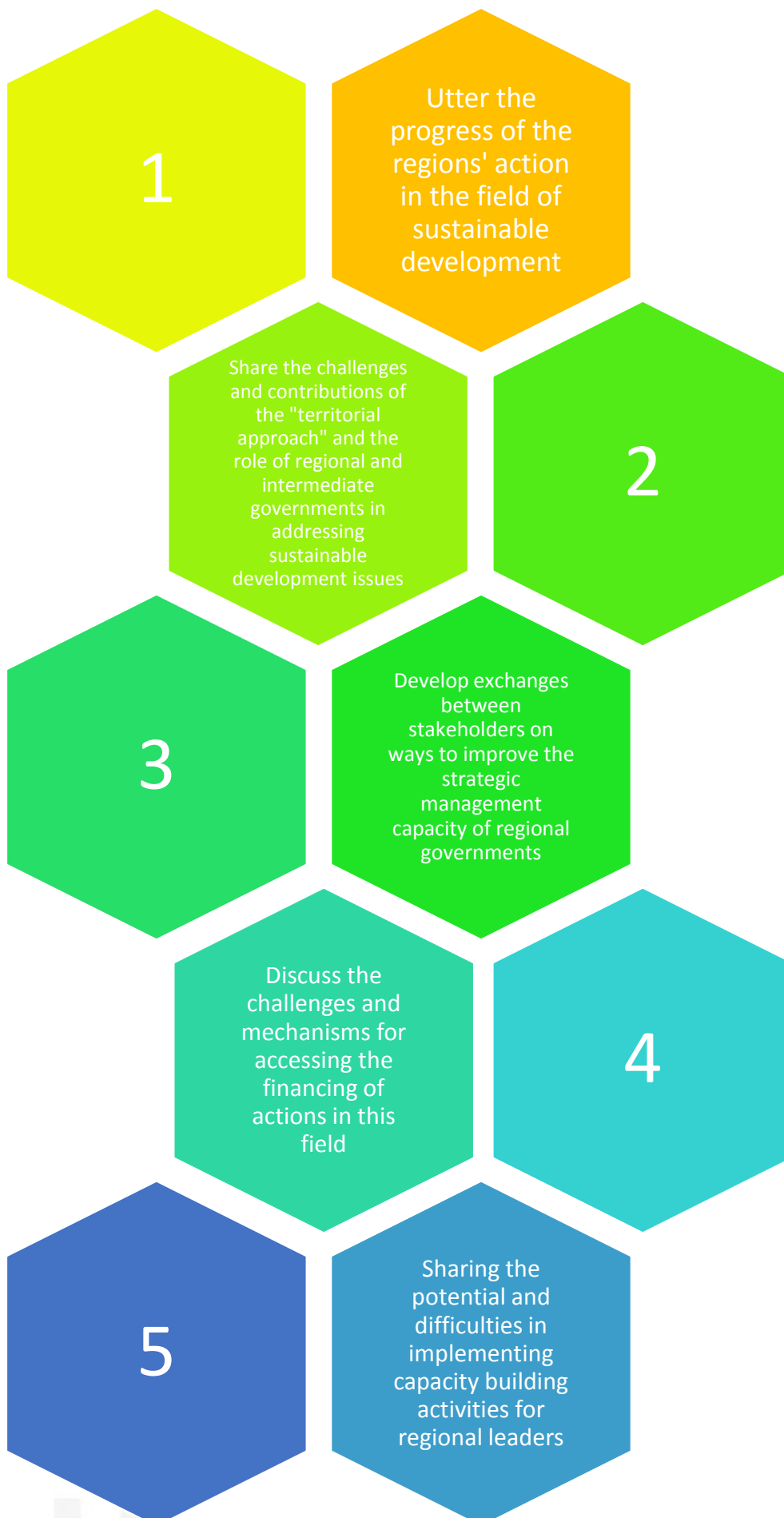
iii) **Strengthening the capacities of elected representatives and regional decision-makers** involved in these policies: in order to ensure that the integrated and sustainable economic, social, cultural and environmental development of their territory is guided by these policies, the Regions must take on new responsibilities and develop their ways of acting in order to monitor, support, promote and ensure the coherence of this development. These responsibilities, which now fall upon them, cannot be successfully assumed without a prior improvement in the capacities of elected representatives and staff of regional authorities, in terms of institutional management, democratic practices and development policies.

In this context, which is very mobilizing, but also entails a high level of demand and commitment on the part of regional governments, ORU-FOGAR has set itself the ambition of contributing strongly to the consolidation of its role as a major player in the sustainable development of the territories, as a contributor to institutional, political and legal reforms at national level and as a vector for new practices at world level, especially through decentralized cooperation.

The central theme of the General Assembly, "**The role of the Regions in the implementation of the three global agendas**", to be held on October 22 and 23 in the Rabat Salé Kenitra Region, is along these lines: ORU Fogar's Rabat assembly will present the many ways in which different regions of the world have to implement the three agendas.

This forum is taking place at a time when the Kingdom of Morocco is undertaking a major territorial reform as part of the advanced process of regionalization.

Within the framework of this process, the organic law on the region has given it an important role in "the promotion of integrated development, its organization, coordination and monitoring, specifically through the valorisation of natural resources, their protection and the contribution to the achievement of sustainable development".



OBJECTIVES OF THE FORUM

XI GENERAL ASSEMBLY PROGRAM

Venue: Hotel Sofitel Jardin des Roses, Rabat

Monday 22th October 2018



8:30-10:00

ORU Fogar's Bureau Executive (only for members).

10:00

Coffee break.

10:30- 13:00

ORU Fogar's General Assembly (only for members).

13:00-14:30

Lunch (only for members).

PROGRAM OF THE WORLD FORUM OF REGIONS

“The Regions face the challenges of implementing the three global agendas”

2030 Agenda, NU and Paris agreement

Venue: Hotel Sofitel Jardin des Roses, Rabat

MONDAY 22 OCTOBER 2018

14:30	Welcome
15:00-16:00	Opening ceremony Welcome Abdessamad SEKKAL , president of Rabat Region Salé Kénitra Council and of ORU Fogar. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greeting from Aziz REBBAH, minister of Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development, Morocco.• Greeting from Nizar BARAKA, president of the Economic, Social and Environmental Council of Morocco (CESE).• Saad-Eddine EL OTMANI, head of Government, Morocco.
16:00-16:30	Family photo
16:30 - 17:00	Coffee Break
17:30-18:30	Roles and challenges of regional governments in implementing the three global agendas <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hassau RADOINE, director of the School of Architecture and Urbanism of Mohamed VI Polytechnic University. Morocco.• Claude CHARBIT, Directorate of Governance and Territorial Development of the OECD.• Rodrigo MESIAS, policy officer of nrg4SD.• El Habib BENESSAHRAQUI, ex director of Energy and Environmental Institute of Francophonie. <i>Moderator: Abdelouhed FIKRAT</i> , developpement expert.
18:30-19:30	Cultural visit
20:30-23:00	Dinner offered by the Regional Council of Rabat-Salé-Kénitra.

TUESDAY 23 OCTOBER 2018

8: 30-10: 30

2030 AGENDA

Localization of the SDGs at the regional level and the role of international decentralized cooperation in the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Organized by PNUD Art

- **Rajae CHAFIL**, director of Observation, Studies and Planning at the State Secretariat for Sustainable Development, Morocco.
- **Leyre MADARIAGA**, general director of External Action, Basque Government.
- **Sylvia SCHMIDT**, policy officer of the Ministry of Environment and Agriculture, North Rhine-Westphalia.
- **Isidre SALA**, general director of Multilateral and European Affairs. Catalunya.
- **Assia BOUZEKRI**, vice president of the Tanger Tétouan Region Al Hoceima.
- **Carolina DARIAS**, president of Canarias Parliament, Spain.

Introduction and moderator: **Johannes KRASSNITZER**, coordinator of UNDP Art.

10: 30-11: 00

Coffee Break

11:00-12:30

The Paris Agreement

Role of Intermediate Governments and Regions in the Territorialization of the NDCs of the Paris Agreement and Challenges of Access to Financing for Mitigation and Adaptation Projects

Organized by the Island of Reunion (France) and Gossas (Senegal)

Introduction: **Adama DIOUF**, president of Kafrine and president of the Association of Departments Senegal.

- **Didier ROBERT**, president of Réunion. France.
- **Brahim HAFIDI**, president of Souss-Massa region, Morocco.
- **Josephat NARROK**, president of the Council of Governors of Kenya.
- **Adama DIALLO**, president of Gossas, Senegal.
- **Juan Luis MANSUR**, president of Zicosur and governor of Tucuman, Argentina.
- **Edwin LICONA**, governor of Cusco, Peru.

Moderator: **Abdelouahed FIKRAT**, developpement expert.

12: 30-14:00

Lunch

14:00-15:30

The New Urban Agenda.

Potential of intermediate governments and regions in the vertical integration of the New Urban Agenda guidelines

Organized by the DG of Territory and Urban Planning of Catalonia.

Introduction and moderation: Josep ARMENGOL, Subdirector General of Territorial Action and Urban Habitat. Government of Catalonia.

- **Agustí SERRA**, Secretariat of Urban Habitat and Territory. Government of Catalonia.
- **Claudia FAUNDEZ**, regional councilor Metropolitan Cordillera. Chile.
- **Abderrahim KSIRI**, member of the economic, social and environmental Council of Morocco.
- **Gustavo BAROJA**, president of CONGOPE, Ecuador.
- **Karim HENDILI**, director of UNESCO Programme Maghreb.

Conclusions: Remy SIETCHPING, leader of UN-Habitat's work on national urban policy, metropolitan development, territorial development and urban-rural linkages.

15:30-16:00

Coffee break

Side-Events

16: 00-17: 30

Round table 1: RIS3 planning examples.

Introduction: Josep Maria PASCUAL, consultant.

- **Paúl CARRASCO**, prefect of Azuay, Ecuador.
- **Marne OSORIO**, mayor of Rivera, Uruguay.
- **José Ignacio PERALTA**, governor of Colima, Mexico.
- **Antonio KUBES**, prefect of Pastaza, Ecuador.

Conclusions: Javier GÓMEZ, Center for Intelligent Planning and Research. European Commission.

Moderator: Javier SÁNCHEZ, head of the Working Group.

Round table 2: Policies to protect cultural diversity.

Organized by the Cultural Diversity working group

Introduction: Ferdinand RICHARD, president of the Expert Group of the International Fund for Cultural Diversity, UNESCO.

- **Marcelino CHUMPI**, Prefect of Morona Santiago, Ecuador.
- **Aka OUELÉ**, president of Sud Comoé and ARDCI, Côte d'Ivoire.
- **Hugo Javier GONZÁLEZ**, Governor of Central, Paraguay.
- **Anne WAIGURU**, President of the Kirinyaga Council, Kenya.

Conclusions: Mohamed FAHMI, president of the International Center for South-North Cooperation and coordinator of the National Network of Seabirds of the Anna Lindh Foundation.

Moderator: Salvador GAUSA, Commissioner of International Relations of the Diputació de Barcelona.

Round table 3: Best regional practices, presentation of the winning practices in the I and II Regional Best Practices Awards

- **Representatives of winning practices**

Moderator: **Anna FERNANDEZ**, general coordinator of ORU Fogar and President of the Jury.

17: 30-18: 00

Ceremony III Award of Good Regional Practices.

- **Anna FERNANDEZ**, general coordinator of the ORU Fogar and president of the Jury.
- **Johannes KRASSNITZER**, coordinator of PNUD Art Initiative.

18: 00-18: 30

Conclusions

Abdelouahed FIKRAT, developpement expert.

Agustín MARIA, development expert Middle East and Africa Office of the World Bank.

Carles LLORENS, general secretary of ORU Fogar.

18:30 - 19:00

Declaration and closing

Mohand LAENSER, president of the Association of Regions of Morocco and the region of Regional Council of Fès-Meknès.

Abdessamad SEKKAL, president of the ORU Fogar and of the Rabat Salé Kenitra Council.

Juan SCHIARETTI, host of the V FORO LED 2019 and governor of Córdoba, Argentina.

The official languages of the event are French, Spanish, English and Arabic.

Mr Abdelouahed FIKRAT will conduct the forum.

CONCEPT NOTES



PANEL 1

2030 AGENDA : Localization of the SDGs at the regional level and the role of international decentralized cooperation in the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Organized by: UNPD Art

23th October 2018

A fundamental element for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda is the construction of multisectoral partnerships involving governments, civil society, academia, private sector and social agents. These alliances are crucial to mobilize the knowledge, technologies and financial resources necessary to achieve the 17 SDGs. As well as, to promote a peaceful society in the sense of sustainable development and to build effective, responsible and inclusive institutions at all levels, and to guarantee the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals is very important to have the active participation of the informed civil society, a key actor for the location of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. Also, it is imperative that civil society organizations work closely with governments to ensure the correct implementation of the 2030 Agenda and require them the accountability about the progress made with respect to the planned goals.

"Civil society organizations (CSOs) play a vital role in enabling the population to claim their rights, promoting a rights-based approach, helping to shape policies and alliances for development and overseeing their implementation." (Article 22, Final Declaration of the 4th Forum on Aid Effectiveness of Busan).

To eradicate poverty, preserve the planet and create an inclusive and fair economic growth through sustainable development, the active participation of all actors and sectors of society is essential. The 2030 Agenda is an agenda for people through people. If you want to "leave no-one behind", then we must ensure that we involve as many actors as possible. However, civil society organizations (CSOs) need to be strengthened, especially at the institutional level and they need to strengthen their capabilities to impact on public policies with the aim of consolidating a leading civil society.

But what is the role of organized civil society in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda? What responsibility do they have, as organizations, facing the global challenges raised by the international agenda? How can they act? From ORU Fogar we believe that the regions, territorial governments, have a fundamental role not only in the implementation of this agenda, but in articulating the alliance with civil society and social agents.

Aim of the Panel

Analyze and discuss how decentralized cooperation promotes the development of institutional, technical and strategic capacities of civil society organizations through technical cooperation, how it strengthens their institutional competencies and their active participation to achieve the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

PANEL 2

The Paris Agreement

Role of Intermediate Governments and Regions in the Territorialization of the NDCs of the Paris Agreement and Challenges of Access to Financing for Mitigation and Adaptation Projects

Organized by the Island of Reunion (France) and Gossas (Senegal)

23th October 2018

What opportunities does the Paris Agreement present for the regions? What possibility is there to decentralize climate funds?

December 12th, 2015, COP 21 concluded with a first agreement that seeks to keep global warming below 2 degrees Celsius, setting a goal of 1.5 degrees during the pre-industrial era. The agreement considers the necessities and means of the signatory countries. It's sustainable over time, with periodically revisable ambitions.

The Agreement has: commitments of each country in order-to reduce Sierra Effect Gases; rules to control any efforts achieved; solutions to sustainably finance the struggle and adaptation for climate change in developing countries (Green Climate Fund: 1 billion USD per year from 2020 on); and a new agenda that sets solutions and initiatives for non-governmental actors.

The Paris Agreement also emphasizes on the role played by local actors in climate action. In fact, more than 55% of the world's population lives in urban areas, two thirds by 2050, and it generates around 70% of the world's carbon emissions. These local actors, especially in the world's main cities, are set in a central place. They do suffer the effects of climate change but are also truly laboratories of experimentation, close to its citizens. When carrying concrete solutions, their ambition can lead towards national commitments.

The different regions of the world also plan to play a leading role in the fight against the effects of climate change. Regions members of ORU have committed to the initiative to reduce greenhouse gases and, more often than it appears, their actions have been faster than those of the states and it directly affects its communities.

The Paris Agreement arrived in a moment when the World was preoccupied on being able to feed the daily increasing population, with around 842 million people suffering from hunger and more than 180 million children that are malnourished. The report estimates that the costs of implementation can reach from 70 billion to 100 billion USD annually until 2050. Despite the political will and the financing pledge for developing countries, the issue of financing adaptation and attenuation is an acute problem.

The issue with climate funding is quite important, such as the problems with good governance at the level of regional governments. Indeed, the international system has acknowledged the job done by sub- state governments in adapting and mitigating the effects of climate change. The regions, due to their proximity to base communities, represent important scales to face the effects of climate change.

The regions closer to the countryside and its population, have better knowledge of its priorities and can intervene effectively according to their scale capabilities or in bigger scales, if they possess the human, material and financial resources required. Nowadays, the regions of the world are now aware that they can perform a key role mitigating and adapting to climate change. They no longer want to stay on the margins of this battle and thus desire that UN organizations and world's states recognize them as viable actors against climate change.

In a very specific way, it concerns us all, as regional governments, ORU members, to promote a balanced and sustainable development that aligns itself to the Sustainable Development Goals. Moreover, through

public awareness, the performance of concrete actions in areas like economic development (agriculture, livestock, silviculture, hydrology, etc.) but also, in other areas such as transport, with the aim to help mitigate the evolution of the actual climate trends and offer people a healthier way of life. Therefore, the adequate financing is needed.

The growing impacts of climate change impose solidarity among states. Financing, on the other hand, the climate transition of the most affected, and at last, the adaption and forecast of losses and damages. Justice in the face of climate change is a very important factor. It must allow, that the right to a healthy environment for all -including the poorest and most vulnerable to climate change- preserves in an effective and sustainable way. Implicates then, any public authority and society itself, to limit and reduce any social and economic inequality generated due to global warming. Also, is important that communities invest in the organization with their own actions and decisions about their future.

Therefore, seems wise, during these panel, to focus on the role of regional governments in this struggle against climate change, in relation with the facilitated access to existing financing, integrated with a climate justice approach. This will demonstrate how the regions of the world assume their leadership role in the adaption and mitigation; but also, it will allow them to answer these questions: Where are these funds? How can we access them? What preparations are needed? Which will be a difficulty? Are there any success stories?

PANEL 3

The New Urban Agenda.

Potential of intermediate governments and regions in the vertical integration of the New Urban Agenda guidelines

Organized by the DG of Territory and Urban Planning of Catalonia.

23th October 2018

The panel aims to show a New Urban Agenda at the regional level, based on the example of the New Urban Agenda of Catalonia. An exercise that aims to create a strategic urban framework through shared governance.

We shouldn't be surprised when we realize that some of the principles stated in the Habitat III Conference, such as "right to the city", "leaving no one behind" or "socially, environmentally and economically sustainable urban development" have been, for many years, shared values already considered in public policies deployed by all levels of governance. Disregarding their nature or range of competences, each administration have progressively absorbed -with different grades of success or sensitivity- the importance of sustainability on their particular agendas.

The growing interest towards topics such as sustainability, climate change effects, social inequality or resiliency, etc., has become a trend that defines the particular approach of each level of governance. In this sense, due to their proximity to citizens, local and subnational governments have performed on the ground a great number of initiatives, actions and projects regarding those principles, becoming the first key actors in realizing the importance of a New Urban Agenda, and implementing its principles accordingly.

However, a New Urban Agenda shouldn't be undertaken as a deployment of isolated actions. On the contrary, implementing the above mentioned principles **requires a strategic overview, engaging all levels of governance**. In order to reach an effective implementation several commitments must be made regarding governance: integrated approaches, multi-sphere decision making, interdisciplinary perspective, inclusiveness of all sorts of stakeholders, etc. But above all of those actions, a previous strategic framework should be set up, as guidance capable to drive this leap towards real shared leadership.

Therefore, a change of paradigm is required in order to adapt the architecture of governance to those challenges, rethinking the role of the key actors and relations among them. A **realignment of all levels of governance** must be undertaken –breaking the inertial habits and mistrust– submitted to a main goal: a sustainable urban development. But, in order to implement a truly urban policy shared by all stakeholders, **how can we achieve a multi-level partnership? How can we break the silos between different sectoral dimensions, achieving a really effective, integrated and holistic approach on urban challenges? How do subnational levels design a policy framework that engages all sorts of stakeholders?**

The Catalan vision

As a region with a wide range of competences on urban matters, the Government of Catalonia is deeply committed on the implementation of a new Urban Agenda. In this sense, after the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding with UN-Habitat for the development of a New Urban Agenda, on April 2017, the Catalan Government approved a Decree for the elaboration of an Urban Agenda for Catalonia, a route map meant to orientate the urban policies for the next decades.

To do so, a collegiate body –named the Urban Assembly of Catalonia– composed by all levels of urban governance, stakeholders, society and private sector representatives, will discuss, coordinate and validate the elaboration of the Urban Agenda for Catalonia. In other words, **in an unique and unprecedented experience, the Catalan Government delegates on a hybrid public – private and multi sphere body, the responsibility on the impulse of the whole process**, including the appointment of the groups of experts, the follow-up on the discussion workshops, and ultimately, the validation of the Urban Agenda for Catalonia.

In the conception of the Agenda, several essential principles have been observed: inclusiveness, sustainability, interdisciplinary and integrated approach, decentralization or subsidiarity, among others. But above all of them, the Urban Agenda for Catalonia has been conceived as a useful instrument on the dialogue to other realities and global challenges. In this matter, the **urban dimension of the Agenda 2030** has been taken into consideration, understanding that the Urban Agenda for Catalonia must become a useful set of policies in order to tackle the Sustainable Development Goals at the urban scale. Likewise, the proposal of contents of the Agenda has been structured upon an equivalent methodology built on goals, challenges and indicators, which will allow not only a monitoring process, but a **real dialogue between agendas**. This dialogue is fundamental for the success of the Urban Agenda for Catalonia.

Key words

New Urban Agenda, Agenda 2030, shared governance, urban policy framework

Expected outcomes

- Contributing positively on the global discussion about the implementation of the Urban Agenda, stressing the strategic role of the subnational levels and the need of shared governance.
- Generating a dialogue among different types of regions and institutions, by introducing the ongoing works on the Urban Agenda for Catalonia.
- Emphasizing the linkages and alignment between the New Urban Agenda and the Agenda 2030, and the need of a shared and integrated governance.

SIDE-EVENT Examples of Smart specialization strategies (RIS3)

Organized by Working Group
23th October 2018

Objectives of the meeting

- Establish the conclusions regarding the development of the program and the results obtained to date.
- Publicize the smart specialization strategies of four or five regions that have participated in the program.
- Exchange experiences among the participating regions.
- Explore the possibilities and opportunities of continuity of the program and establish the possible changes necessary from the acquired experience.

Participants

Regional governments participating in the RIS3-AL program. Representatives of Azuay, Rivera, Colima and Pastaza. Other regional governments participating in the ORU-Fogar assembly interested in smart specialization. Ad hoc guests: Javier Gómez, Scientific Officer, Smart Specialization of the Joint Research Center, European Commission and Josep Maria Pascual Esteve, consultant.

It would be appropriate to invite representatives of the European Commission (Directorate C - Planet and Prosperity, United C5 - Cities, Local Authorities, Digitalisation, Infrastructure), which finances the Platforma project.

Contents

1. Welcome and introduction.
2. Colloquium conference by an expert (JM Pascual) (the key issues within the conference should focus, within the framework of participatory strategic planning in a multi-level institutional environment, on innovation and governance).
3. General presentation of the development of the program.
4. Presentation of four or five smart specialization strategies of the regions participating in the RIS3-AL* program.
5. Debate and conclusions.

At the moment we are working with the hypothesis that the participating regions are Azuay, Rivera, Colima and Pastaza, with the possibility of a fifth yet to be determined as their plans develop.

(*) The interest in the exposition of the strategies of intelligent specialization of these regions is based in some specific features:

Azuay The main interest is that the starting point has been the development of a project in the construction sector, with the creation of a cluster and a technological center. For this undertaking, a public-private cooperation scheme has been created where business and educational representatives are involved, in addition to governmental actors. The RIS3 strategy can provide the region with a road map to convert the construction sector into the engine of regional economic development, exploring the possibilities of developing other related or complementary sectors to construction and specific projects, in the economic, social and environmental spheres.

Rivera. The RIS3 strategy is part of a project to create a technological pole based fundamentally on the production of computer software and with a focus on entrepreneurship support. There is here an added interest, since the strategy is conceived as a cross-border cooperation project between Rivera and Livramento. The two regions have already a certain tradition of common work, and perspectives to reinforce it in its educational and business dimensions are now based in this binational technological pole.

Colima. The definition of the strategy is still in its initial phases, although it points towards an industrial pole as its central element, with business and university participation.

Pastaza. The characteristics of the RIS3 process in this region presents great complexity within the RIS3-AL program; both for the decision-making structure at the institutional level and at its different territorial levels, and for the socioeconomic characteristics of the region. Pastaza comprises seven recognized nationalities and a very complex human geography, with communities that live almost isolated in the Amazon rainforest. The RIS3 strategy is based on key factors such as the preservation of the natural environment, which is in turn harmonized with the economic development of the communities that inhabit it, where forestry, oil and gas exploitation are the most pressing issues, and where actors display very conflicting interests. An element of added interest is the possibility of working jointly at the transnational level with the Loreto region in Peru, with whom Pastaza shares objectives and possible future strategies in the Amazonian environment. However, to be realistic, the complexity of the socio-economic and institutional environment makes it foreseeable that the most ambitious objective that can be achieved in its smart specialization strategy is to innovate at the functional level in the structure of decision-making and cooperation between agents. Either way, this is a very interesting case study.

SIDE-EVENT POLICIES TO PROTECT CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Organized by: Working group of cultural diversity
23th October 2018

There is an old anecdote about a Catalan singer-songwriter, Guillem d'Efak, son of a princess from the former Spanish colony of Equatorial Guinea (and therefore of black skin like her) and a Spanish military man, which is particularly eloquent when it comes to characterizing cultural diversity. Guillem d'Efak lived almost always on the island of Mallorca, his father's land. One day, travelling through inland Mallorca (we are talking about the times before the tourist boom), he arrived in a rural village and as he was thirsty he went in an old tavern, asking for a drink from the lady, a farmer and in late middle age, who served him. The lady's response was surprising: "My goodness! If you hadn't talked in Mallorcan, I would have thought you were black!"

To speak of diversity is to speak of an enormously diverse phenomenon. If cultural diversity, according to UNESCO, is the main heritage of humanity, many scholars, such as the Catalan paleoanthropologist Eudald Carbonell, consider it to be an indispensable condition for the survival of humanity as a species, just as natural diversity is, ecologically speaking. If identity was traditionally a precondition determined by the characteristics of a place or a human group, today identity can only be conceived as a project that is, a consequence or result of the interaction, dialogue and contact of the various identities existing in a given place.

Contemporary strategies for dealing with diversity in the Western world show a certain exhaustion, making their limitations evident: both the American-style melting pot and the Anglo-Saxon corporate multiculturalism and the French-based republican secularism seem to have reached their limits. This is not necessarily bad news, as it makes it possible to look ahead with new eyes from the lessons learned and, ultimately, to reinvent the approach to diversity.

This exercise, on a local and proximity scale, requires a commitment to strategies that have traditionally seemed to be antagonistic, rehearsing in each case their most appropriate articulation. It is necessary to work in a multicultural way, valuing the existing cultures in a given place with the same conditions of possibility and at the same time it is necessary to do so in an intercultural way, creating the necessary favorable climate for interaction and dialogue between the different human groups carrying the existing cultures, without disregarding the commitment to transculturality, respecting the right of all citizens to construct their own identity from random and heterogeneous ingredients. The mosaic, the kaleidoscope and the dice; therefore, are offered to us as a metaphor for three strategic orientations that in the territorial project not only do not contradict each other, but increasingly complement each other.

In short, any policy for diversity is articulated between the safeguarding of two unsuspected complementary rights: the right to difference, that is, the respect and safeguarding of the existing modalities for the exercise of citizenship, and the right to indifference, that is, the respect and safeguarding of anonymity, normally reserved only for the majority, as a condition of full citizenship. Language - or culture - can act as a mask, yes; but also as a guarantee of the right to indifference.

This diversity, however, requires a number of new conditions for its governance under appropriate conditions. In 2005, UNESCO adopted the Convention on the Diversity of Cultural and Artistic Expressions, the result of an earlier Declaration drawn up in 2001, which has since been ratified by more than 120 States around the world, as well as by the European Union, which is a legal obligation to comply with its precepts.

Despite this, and ten years later, it is clear that the existing instruments are sometimes too small to be applied globally and at times too large to be applied locally. State and world reports and periodic conventions to date do not always reflect the best possible implementation. As far as civil society is concerned, the existence of the so-called Coalitions for Cultural Diversity, federated at the international level, is also a clear example of an excessively variable situation; as we have seen in the unsuccessful attempt to set a cultural objective among the new Objectives for Sustainable Development for the year 2030. Ultimately, the dialogue between Agenda 2030, World Urban Agenda, Climate Change Agenda, Agenda 21 for Culture... also requires more sophisticated tools for a new governance.

All of this underlines the importance of the sub-state entities, and of regional powers in particular, as decisive actors for this new "variable geometry" government for cultural diversity. How to do this, with what general frameworks, with what instruments and on the basis of what experience, is a question on which regional authorities need to reflect and debate. A regional association of the nature of ORU Fogar can be an ideal space for this debate, which must be accompanied by the exchange of good practices to help foster new visions and new experiences, favoring the new governance for cultural diversity that the new times demand of us.

The nineteenth century saw equality as a condition for the legitimacy of relations between the State and society and this principle spread throughout the Western world. Equality, therefore, together with freedom, became a new threshold in the establishment of citizenship status. Perhaps now, well into the twenty-first century, we can state unequivocally that this new condition of legitimacy is the result of new policies, **policies for diversity**, regardless of the existence or not of situations derived from ethnic, identity or migratory aspects.



ORU  **FOGAR**
UNITED REGIONS ORGANIZATION

