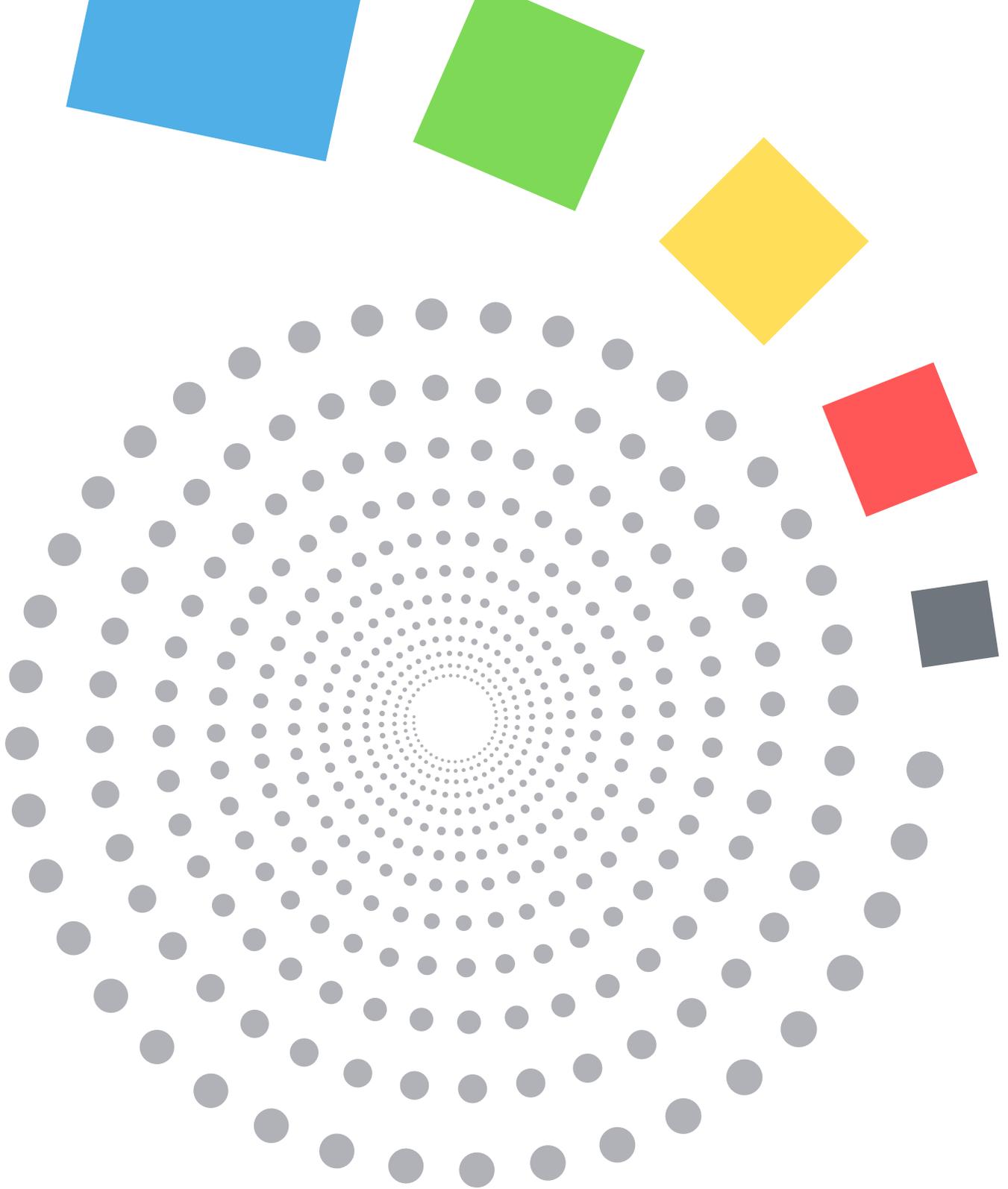




ANNUAL REPORT

2020



<http://www.regionsunies-fogar.org/en/>

secretariat@regionsunies-fogar.org

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President's Report

"I wanted to highlight the contribution of the regions of our network and the regions in general to the management of this global health crisis, particularly in the economic and social support of businesses and the most vulnerable citizens."

ABDESSAMAD SEKKAL
PRESIDENT

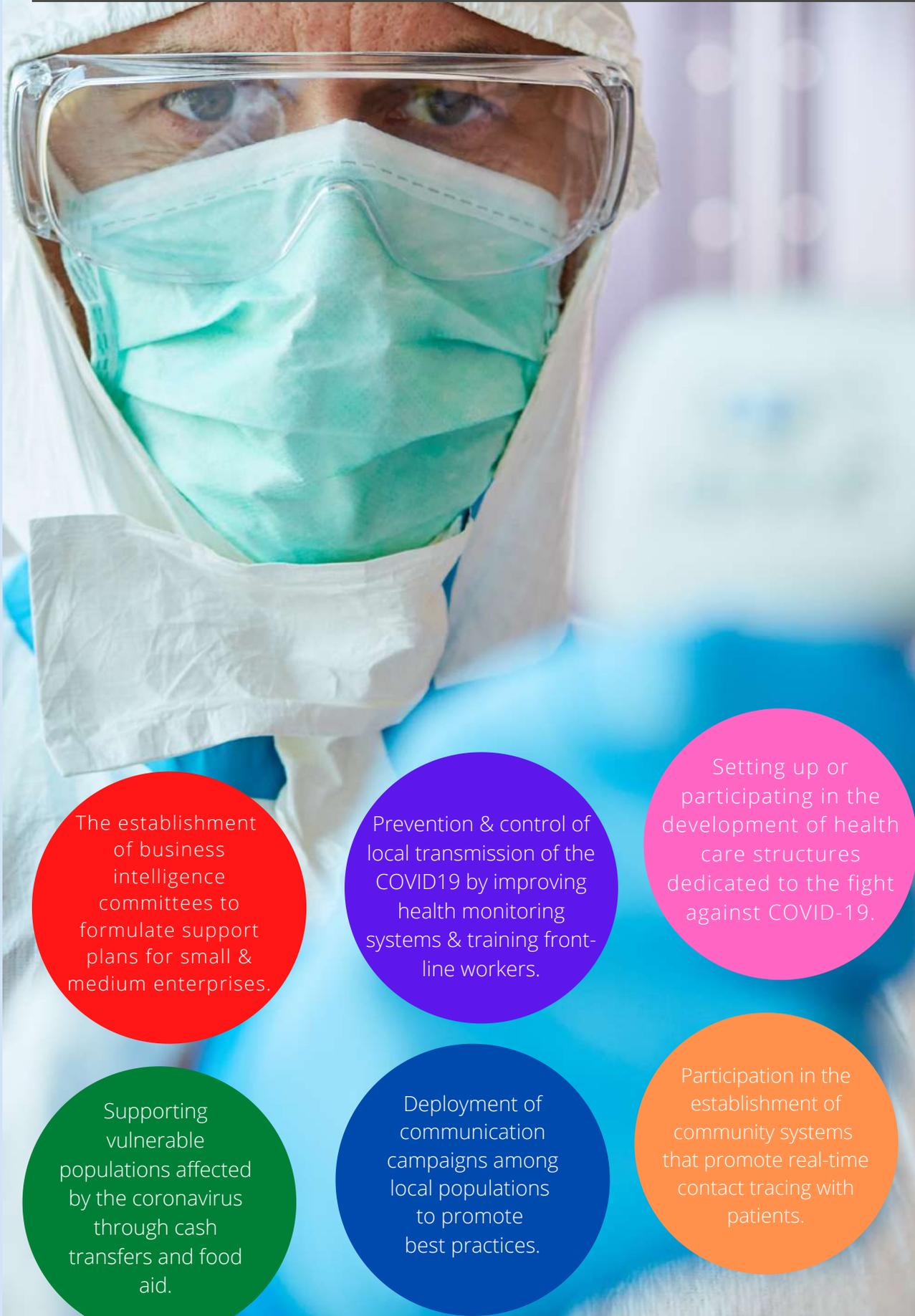


The year 2020, has been affected by the global health crisis that we are currently going through. Yet, our organization had begun the year under favorable auspices, with an increasingly strong international presence and a large participation in the different global debates.

Since the last assembly, we have seen a great presence of our regions, especially at the [COP25](#) in Madrid, with an important contribution from Regions4. Our Organization was also present during the [World Forum](#) in Abu Dhabi (February 8-16) both at the Assembly of Local and Regional Governments, but also during different events within the Forum, in particular the side event organized by the FAO.

Significant work has been carried out to consolidate and improve the effectiveness of cooperation within the [Global Partnership](#). We now have not only a stronger presence, but also a structure capable of following up on this issue. Our collaboration with the FAO has also been strengthened by the important presence at all the organization's events and the excellent relations with the headquarters in Rome.

In spite of this promising debut, and a plentiful annual program, we were quickly caught up by reality. A global health crisis that has crippled numerous countries worldwide for several months. Henceforth, we have never missed an opportunity to highlight the **considerable work of our network of regions that have positioned themselves on the front line in the fight against COVID-19.** This through several actions within the framework of the competences conferred upon them and according to the state of progress of the regionalization process in each country.



The establishment of business intelligence committees to formulate support plans for small & medium enterprises.

Prevention & control of local transmission of the COVID19 by improving health monitoring systems & training front-line workers.

Setting up or participating in the development of health care structures dedicated to the fight against COVID-19.

Supporting vulnerable populations affected by the coronavirus through cash transfers and food aid.

Deployment of communication campaigns among local populations to promote best practices.

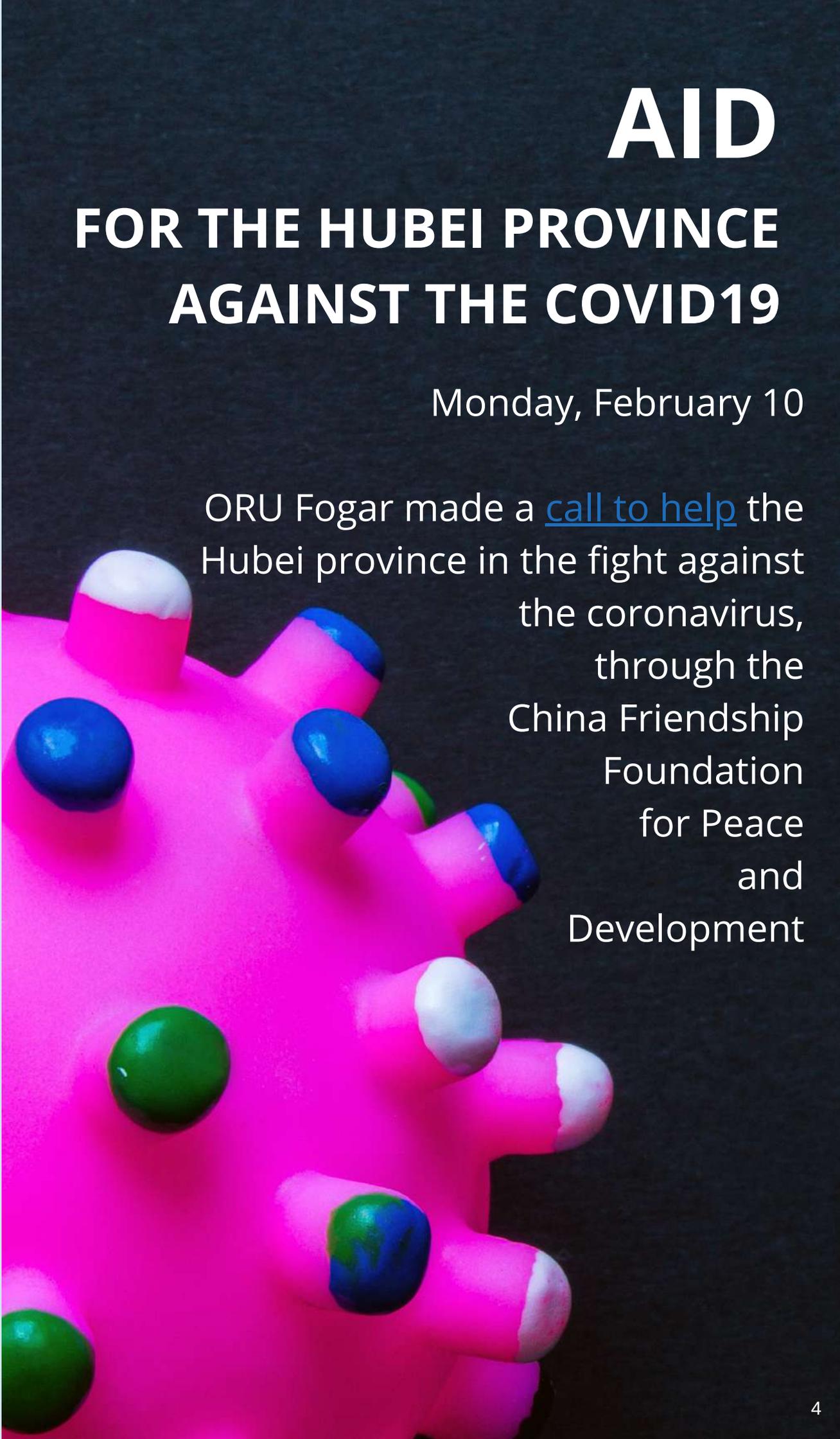
Participation in the establishment of community systems that promote real-time contact tracing with patients.

AID

FOR THE HUBEI PROVINCE AGAINST THE COVID19

Monday, February 10

ORU Fogar made a [call to help](#) the Hubei province in the fight against the coronavirus, through the China Friendship Foundation for Peace and Development





Message of the President

Wednesday, April 15 2020

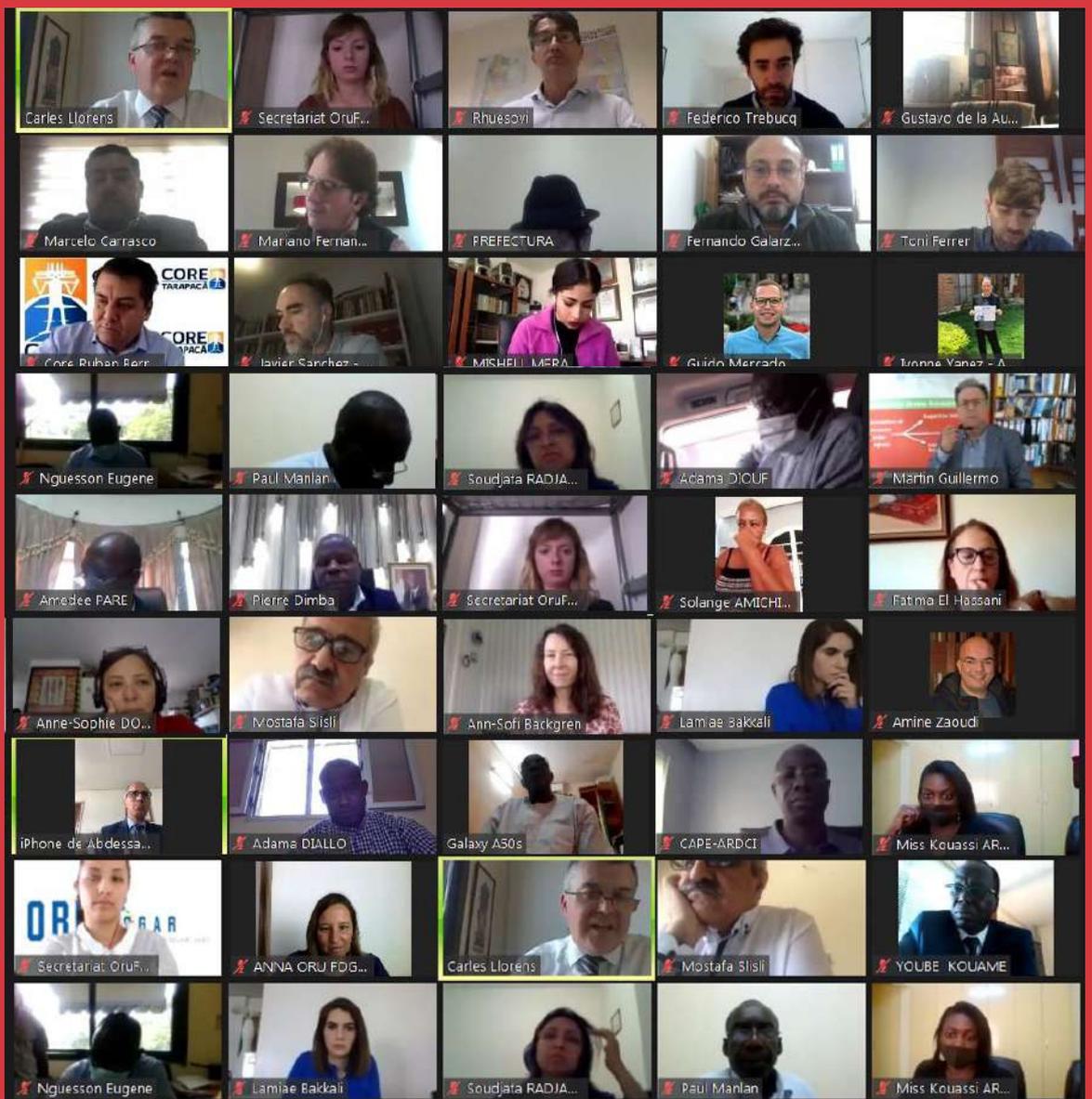
The President of ORU Fogar and President of the Rabat-Salé-Kenitra region (Morocco), Mr. Abdessamad Sekkal, addressed all its members in the face of the unprecedented situation of the global pandemic.



SHALL WE CONNECT?

Regions response to the COVID-19 crisis

We have introduced webinars on the exchange of best practices during the lockdown. In May, members of the organization held an online session where they were able to share their experiences in the fight against the pandemic in terms of health policies, food security policies and economic recovery.



[DOWNLOAD REPORT](#)



Donation of 40,000 masks to the Italian regions

We also welcomed the agreement with the China Friendship Foundation for Peace and Development, signed in 2019, through which a convoy of 40,000 masks was transported to the Italian regions of Sicily and Tuscany.

Obstacles in the implementation of global agendas, particularly the 2030 Agenda

In less than a year, between 2015 and 2016, the global community adopted three innovative and ambitious agendas: the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement on climate change and the New Urban Agenda. These three agendas explicitly state the vision and aspiration of every component of the global community, including local and regional governments and therefore must be integrated into all local, national, and international initiatives.

To ensure an effective implementation, the New Urban Agenda and the SDGs must be territorialized and translated into concrete territorial integrated development actions with positive impact on local communities.

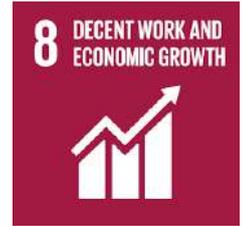
This territorialization must imperatively rely on the principle of subsidiarity by ensuring proximity and citizen participation in the decision-making process to guarantee access to services for all. Thus, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will not allow for a positive transformation for citizens and the planet without the effective involvement of intermediate governments and its appropriation by citizens.

Indeed, in addition to their role in guaranteeing basic services to populations, **intermediate governments are the relevant level for translating major national policies into sustainable and integrated development programs for territories**, which will then be translated into local services with the support of local authorities.



While several advances have been made on this subject, it is certain that an unprecedented event, such as the health crisis we are currently experiencing, will cause a general slowdown in the various processes launched.

It is still difficult today to fully measure the **impact of COVID-19** on national and global sustainable development efforts. However, it is undeniable that Goal 8 on **decent work and economic growth** is the broadest response because of its social, economic, and environmental dimensions. That said, **SDG 8 cannot be achieved without the fulfillment of SDG 3 (empowering people to live healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages) because economic development cannot be dissociated from the human factor and its well-being.**



The same is true for Goal 2 of the SDGs, which concerns the eradication of hunger. We have all witnessed the disruption of food supply chains and the disruption of export and import processes. This has had a direct impact on **food availability**. Forecasts show that the crisis could affect 250 million people, particularly in Africa.

Similarly, and because of its unpredictable scale and repercussions, this crisis may shake **confidence in multilateralism and its institutions**, which would undoubtedly be a great mistake. Moreover, we have witnessed the rise of an authoritarian discourse that considers that only centralized regimes can defeat such a crisis by mobilizing all the country's resources. But we know very well that this is false.

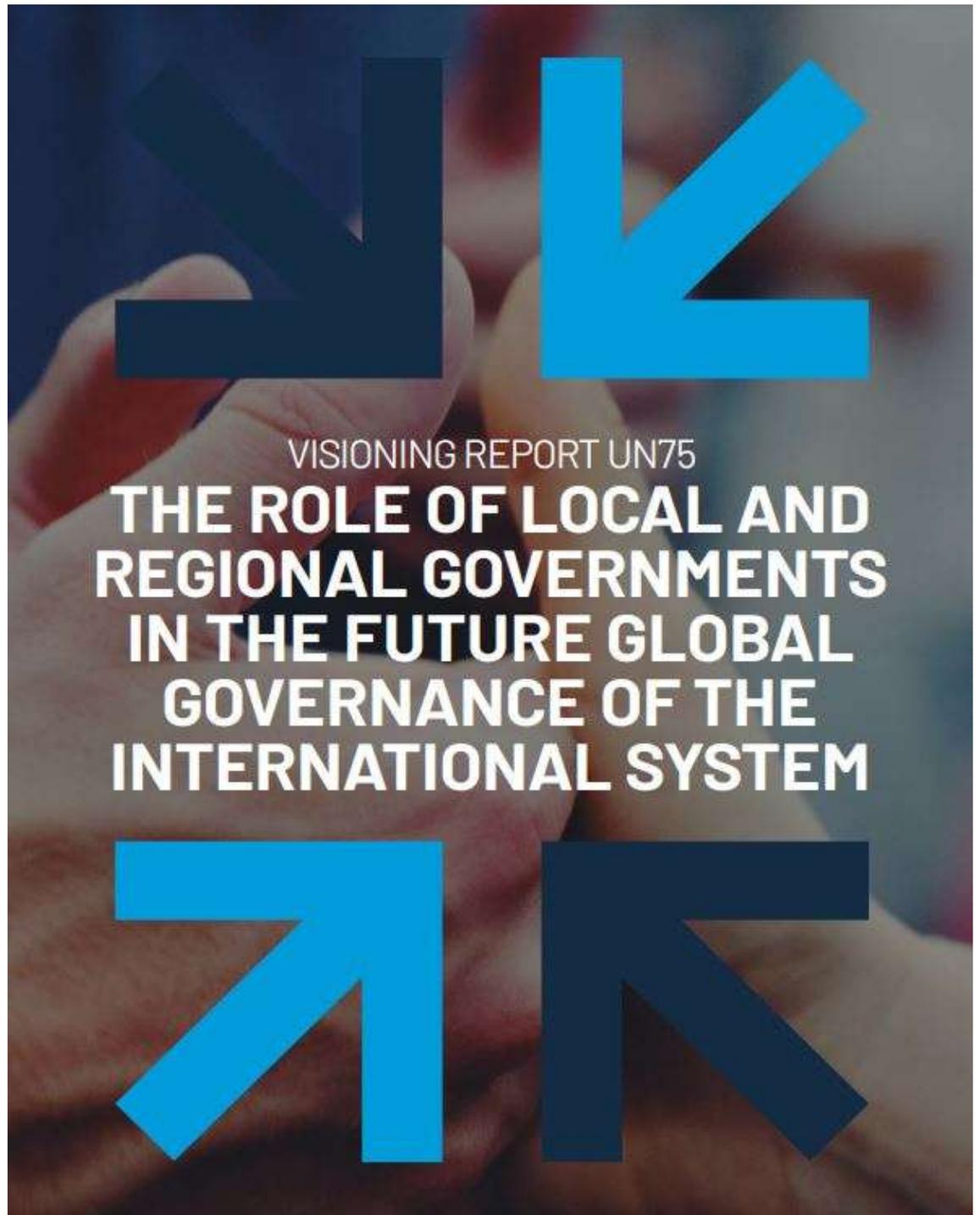
The countries that have been most successful in containing the crisis are democratic States where the different levels of governance cooperate in full complementarity.

The effectiveness of the response to the COVID-19 emergency or any other crisis depends largely on the level of articulation between the different territorial actors and the different levels of governance, especially the regional level, as well as on the active participation of the civil society.

In this context, we have positioned ourselves in favor of the initiative of the Secretary General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, to accelerate action in favor of SDGs. The 2030 Agenda has achieved an unprecedented consensus and commitment. It must continue to be a frame of reference.

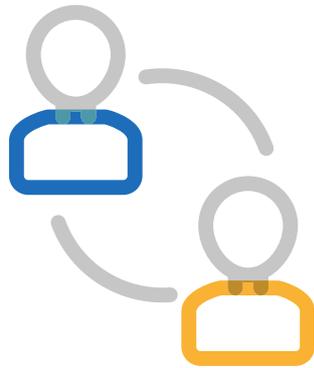
The pandemic should not diminish our commitment to SDGs. Our commitment remains intact and even strengthened.

In this sense, we participated in the [75th anniversary of the United Nations](#), as a member of the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments and drafters of the document 'The role of local and regional governments in the future global governance of the international system'. To this end, on October 8, we participated in the presentation of the document to the Under-Secretary of the United Nations, accompanied by the Executive Director of UN Habitat.





"We envision," says the report, "an international table around which local and regional governments are represented and where issues are addressed from the bottom up, relying on the support of the territories".



Executive Bureau

WORKING MEETINGS

Online June 8, 2020

Online November 30, 2020



Abdessamad Sekkal
President
Rabat Salé Kénitra



Karl-Heinz Lambertz
Vice president 4
AEBR



Laurent Wauquiez
Vice president 1
AIRF



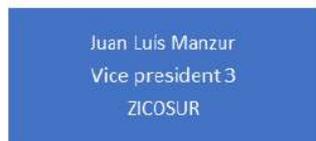
Elisabet Nebreda
Generalitat de Catalunya



Adama Diouf
Vice president 2
ADS, Senegal



Arantxa Tapia Otaegi
Regions4



Juan Luis Manzur
Vice president 3
ZICOSUR



Eugène Aka Aouélé
ARDCI Ivory Coast



Marcelo Carrasco
Treasurer
ANCORE Chile



Myriam Larroulet
Basque government



Martin Nyaga Wambora
Council Governors Kenya



Mostapha Slisli
Region of Oriental



The regions in action against COVID19

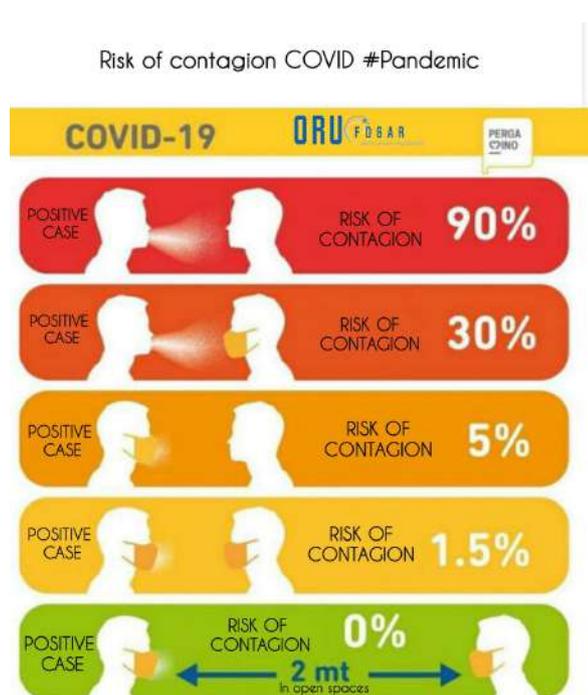


Dissemination of reliable information on the health alert

Right from the start, there was a great deal of confusion throughout the world due to the dissemination of erroneous or poorly explained information. We therefore decided to work on the dissemination of reliable information on the health alert. The reliable information was that of the [World Health Organization](#), but of all the information generated by the WHO, it was important to choose which information could be useful.



We first sent the basic recommendations: that have become key recommendations throughout the world, concerning handwashing, social distancing, prevention, restriction of public events, use of masks...



We then disseminated an on-line course on the health topic. The aim was to provide **information to professionals to prepare for the arrival of the virus**. And a protocol on how to act against the first cases of coronavirus and their first contacts. Identifying and monitoring cases. Finally, we disseminated a [manual on how to administer a center for patients infected by the coronavirus](#). It provided guidance, standards, and minimum requirements for operating centers for the treatment of severe acute respiratory infections in low- and middle-income countries and resource-constrained countries.

In terms of recommendations, in addition to those of the WHO, at the request of some associations from our member regions, we disseminated the **recommendation websites of our partners such as Catalonia and the Basque Country**, which were among the first to suffer from this crisis and had developed instruments that could be replicated.

<http://www.regionsunies-fogar.org/en/media-files/541-the-regions-overtuned-in-the-food-alert>



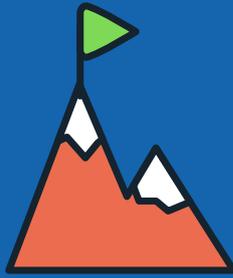
As the weeks went by, beyond the health issue, the food alert took on a new dimension and here we have drawn on our long and historic relationship with the FAO.

We have disseminated FAO recommendations and reports, with summaries we have produced, to all our members. What recommendations? Various, but above all recommendations to preserve, protect and strengthen all food supply lines, locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.

Beyond these recommendations, we organized FAO officers' meetings with our members. On April 24, we organized an FAO meeting with the Mancomunidad de los Andes and on May 15, one with Chile's regional councilors, ANCORE.

Action Plan

Leadership and governance



Follow up on the Statutes



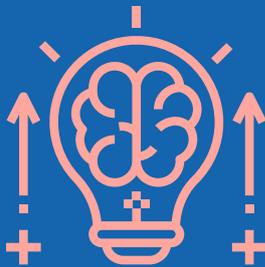
Global organization



Promote and manage knowledge



Increase the value of being a member



Operational effectiveness



Networking



Communication plan



Actions

February, Launch of V Regional Best Practices Award

April 15, Message from the President to all members

May 7, Ceremony Awards IV Regional Best Practices Award

**May 14-15, Shall we connect?
Regions' response to the
COVID-19 crisis**

**July 9, Positive conversation
Mr. Abdessamad Sekkal,
president of ORU Fogar and
Mr. Thierry Cornillet,
President of AIRF**

**September, REPORT
"The role of local and
regional governments in
the future global governance
of the international system"**

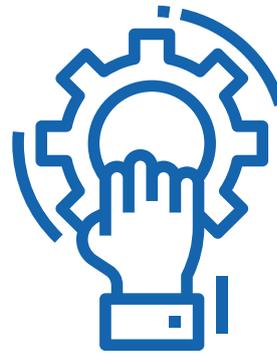
**September 24, Webinar "Nariño,
the food issue of a territory that
strives for peace"**

**October 22, Ceremony Awards
V Regional Best Practices Award**

**October 27-29, Webinars on Funding
Opportunities for African and Latin American Regions**

**November 5, POSITIVE CONVERSATION Mr Pascal, president of the
region Belier of Ivory Coast, and Mr Diouf, president of the Association of
Departments of Senegal**

**November 30, General Assembly, Bureau and Seminar "Digitization at the
service of the regions"**



2020



POSITIVE CONVERSATION

**A virtual space that should enable
a fluid and open dialogue on the future of governance
in which the regions matter.**

Following the global alert, Abdessamad Sekkal, as president of ORU-Fogar, called on the regional world and in particular the member regions of ORU-Fogar to set up a major debate on the role of regions in the future governance. The COVID-19 pandemic, as a public health issue has provided an opportunity to renew the role of public administration. In all territories, the central state took control following the global alert. In some cases, this control was made in close cooperation of the local and regional governments. In other cases, however, the pandemic has favored the recentralization of states, a latent phenomenon preceding the arrival of COVID-19. Nonetheless, everywhere in the world **regions played a key role in at least two different ways: in disseminating recommendations to fight the pandemic and in assisting the most vulnerable populations**. No one could do without the regions. Thus, the crisis highlighted some important facts. The world of the 21st century is an incredibly complex world and in this complex world, there is no room for centralism. **The architecture of the new governance is being developed and ORU Fogar must be the space in which the regions formulate their proposals**. As governments with a human dimension, we need to work on how to coordinate our actions with those of local and central governments and on how to take part in the global dynamic. The "Positive Conversation" initiative is intended as a first contribution to the debate. At a time when physical meetings and encounters are still difficult, ORU-Fogar is launching **a virtual format that should enable a fluid and open dialogue on the future of governance in which the regions matter**.





SEMINAR OBJECTIVES

In January 2021, the Digital Campus of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region will open its doors. Covering an area of 3 hectares, it will host some 2,000 students, teachers, business partners and groups from the region, as well as industrialists and researchers. With this campus, the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region is endowed with a unique tool to become the first digital region in France and to establish itself as the accelerator of digital technology in Europe, a true European "Silicon Valley".

This seminar will complement the program of the ORU-Fogar 2020 General Assembly that will take place on November 30.

The seminar program will aim to understand, through the testimony of various regions, the policies that are applied in the digital field and to initiate a debate among the members of the General Assembly on the options and the role of regional authorities in supporting to the development of digital technology in their territories.



DIGITIZATION AT THE SERVICE OF REGIONS

PROMOTE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION TO BOOST THE GROWTH OF TERRITORIES

DECEMBER 1ST, 2020
16:00-18:00 CET

Regional Best Practices Award

IV Edition



V Edition





Working groups



FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

<http://www.regionsunies-fogar.org/en/oru-in-action/working-groups/345-food-security>

Ever since ORU Fogar signed in 2008 an agreement with the FAO, their Core Group on Food Sovereignty has kept on working. In the initial stage, the group was led by French regions, such as Lower Normandy first, then Champagne-Ardenne. Since 2016, the Core Group has been chaired by the Ecuadorian province of Azuay.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

<http://www.regionsunies-fogar.org/en/oru-in-action/working-groups/342-sustainable-development>

Regions4 acts as a representative for ORU Fogar on sustainable development themes, leading this working group whose objective is to promote the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and encourage the regional governments to undertake environmental-friendly policies.



DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

<http://www.regionsunies-fogar.org/en/oru-in-action/working-groups/341-development-cooperation>

The purpose of this working group is to support the efforts of their member organizations and regions to meet the challenge of sustainable development. Also, to organize ORU-Fogar's participation and contribution to the relevant international dialogues on development cooperation.

Projects



DIGITIZATION AT

Seminar "Digitalization at the service of the regions"

POSSIBILITÉS DE FINANCEMENT POUR LES
RÉGIONS AFRICAINES

27 OCTOBRE 14:00 CET



Webinars on Financial Possibilities for African and Latin American Regions



Food Sovereignty core group webinars



Regional strategies for 2020-2030



Collaboration with the TEC Monterrey University

POSITIVE CONVERSATION

Positive conversation



UN SDG Action Awards



75th anniversary of the United Nations



BIOSPHERE

Biosphere Responsible Tourism



The RegionsAdapt initiative



Projects of food and nutritional security



V Regional Best Practices Award

<http://www.regionsunies-fogar.org/en/oru-in-action/projects>

Newsletter

Have you
missed any
of our last
Newsletters?

Do you want
to read the
latest
information
about
#regionalgov?

We have published **79** numbers
that you can find here:

<http://www.regionsunies-fogar.org/en/media-files/newsletters>



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