

UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

<http://www.iula-hq.nl/>

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Background Material on the Inaugural Conference of United Cities and Local Governments

United Cities and Local Governments is a new world organisation dedicated to promoting the values, objectives and interests of cities and local governments across the globe. It is the largest local government organisation in the world, with a diverse membership that includes both individual cities and national associations of local governments.

United Cities and Local Governments is the global voice of cities and the main local government partner of the United Nations. It promotes the policies and experiences of local governments in key areas such as poverty, sustainable development and social inclusion.

United Cities and Local Governments supports international cooperation between cities and their associations, and facilitates programmes, networks and partnerships to build the capacity of local governments. It promotes the role of women in local decision-making, and is a gateway to relevant information on local government across the world.

United Cities and Local Governments brings together local governments, big and small, rural and urban, in over 100 countries across 5 continents. All are united around common interests, challenges and goals.

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Mission, objectives and tasks

Mission

To be the united voice and world advocate of democratic local self-government, promoting its values, objectives and interests, through cooperation between local governments, and within the wider international community.

Objectives

Promote strong and effective **democratic local self-government** throughout the world

Promote **unity and cooperation** amongst members

Ensure the effective **political representation** of local government to the international community, in particular the United Nations and its agencies

Be the worldwide source of key **information** regarding local government

Be the worldwide source of **learning, exchange and capacity-building**

Support the establishment and strengthening of free and autonomous **local governments and their national associations**

Promote economic, social, cultural, vocational and environmental **development** and public service based on the principles of **good governance, sustainability and social inclusion**

Promote **race and gender equality** and combat all forms of discrimination

Be a **strong democratic** organisation reflecting the **diversity** of the local spheres of governance

Promote **decentralised cooperation, international cooperation, twinning and partnerships** between local governments and their associations

Develop **programmes and initiatives**

Tasks

Engage in **lobbying and advocacy** to promote the role and status of local government in the international arena and to influence international policy making

Develop and promote **policies and positions** on key local government and international issues

Collaborate with the **United Nations** and its agencies, and other relevant international organisations

Develop **initiatives and action programmes** through decentralised cooperation/development projects between local governments and

Mission

Founding organisations

Structure

Regional sections

Leadership

Governing bodies

Membership

Constitution

Contact

associations of local governments

Build an **international platform of exchanges and partnerships**, in order to strengthen the capacities of local governments and their associations

Support a strong **network** of local government members and develop **services and global products** to meet their needs and demands

Become a major world source of **information** on local self-government, local authorities, international solidarity and the exchange of experience

Disseminate information through **publications, seminars and new information technologies** on the situation and the evolution of local government all over the world and organise **congresses** and other events

Membership

United Cities and Local Governments has members in over 100 countries in all world regions. Its membership includes cities, small and large, and national associations, which represent local government members in a single country. Local government members either join directly, or through becoming members of the regional or metropolitan sections.

This gives United Cities and Local Governments a broad, global membership which includes local governments of all types, as well as our international partners. If your organisation is interested in becoming a member of United Cities and Local Governments, then you can apply under one of the following categories:

- **Local government membership** open to individual cities and local governments, and national Local Government Associations
- **International organisation membership** open to international local government organisations which represent specific categories of local governments, and/or whose purposes relate to specific sectoral or thematic issues
- **Associate membership** open to organisations which, though not themselves local government organisations, are strongly concerned with or involved in local government matters

Local government members, international organisation members and associate members pay an annual membership fee. The membership fees for local government members take into consideration the number of inhabitants represented by the member, and the state of the country's economic development.

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