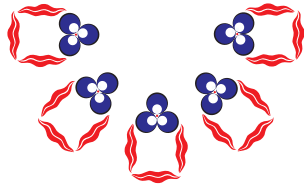


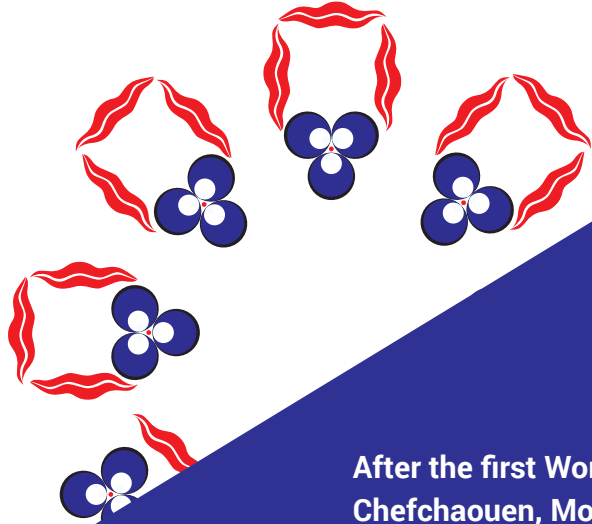
UCLG World Forum of Intermediary Cities



**Life Systems
for a Resilient
Future**

4-8 October 2021
Kutahya-TURKEY

Executive summary



After the first World Forum of Intermediary Cities held in Chefchaouen, Morocco in July 2018, Intermediary Cities have made greatest efforts to make themselves visible, “voice-able”, and heard before the pandemic. The “potential to unlock local implementation agendas” in the first world forum has generated a momentum, making these cities heard by International Institutions, and local governments, aware of their conditions being unique ones. The momentum has also generated advocacy, financing, and accelerated the implementation of the Global Agendas at a moment when Intermediary Cities did not usually enjoy such recognition.

The pandemic has revealed the failures and gaps in the functioning of territories: inequalities experienced in the survival throughout the health crisis have placed local governments in the frontline of the health crisis, that has shown its different faces in territories: the economic crisis, the social crisis and the ecological crisis. Today, many Intermediary Cities are in a state of emergency, especially in the global South and the risk of unrest is high.

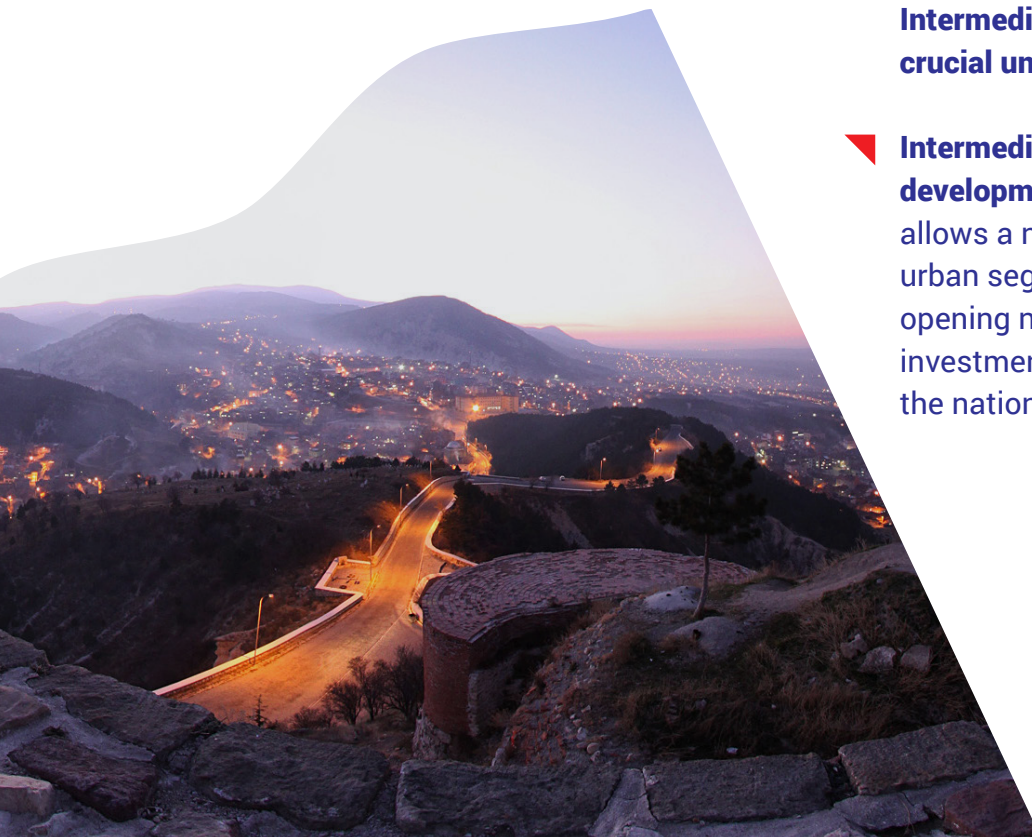
However, and more than ever, the specific character of intermediation poles of development in territories, that defines them, is needed to build a strong, resilient and healthy Recovery: it is not only a need for the populations living there, but it is the closest solution to achieving true Global Resilience for our planet.

This is the main objective of this Second World Forum.

Key potentials

The attractiveness of Intermediary Cities seen during the Pandemic for those that wished to leave crowded and dense areas has enhanced their key potentials and include:

- ▶ **Rural-urban linkages** opening to proximity with Nature, and to healthy food and natural resources.
- ▶ **Local consumption and production** patterns for food sometimes still directly linked to improving local production structures.
- ▶ **A large area of policies impact the territory:** decentralization & cooperation between municipalities becomes a key player for the life of/in the territory.
- ▶ **Areas of integration into the democracy principles especially for global South countries:** from rural to urban worlds.
- ▶ Mass of Intermediary Cities are the key feature to play on to reveal the true potential at global level: scaling up solutions, and enhancing large national or/ continental strategies are the most adequate strategy to play on this mass of cities. **National scale of developing strategies and international cooperation between Intermediary Cities becomes crucial under this light.**
- ▶ **Intermediation poles of development in the territory:** this allows a new lecture of the national urban segments and development, opening new strategies for investment and development onto the national territory.



2021 a crucial year for the World and for Intermediary Cities

2021 is a crucial moment, not only for Intermediary Cities, but for the world as a whole: it is the time to decide and set in motion the recovery we want for the planet. It is the opportunity to define new future paths for the post-COVID world. The next question is: what is the Recovery we are seeking?

Is this the right opportunity to draw the main lines for the post-COVID world?

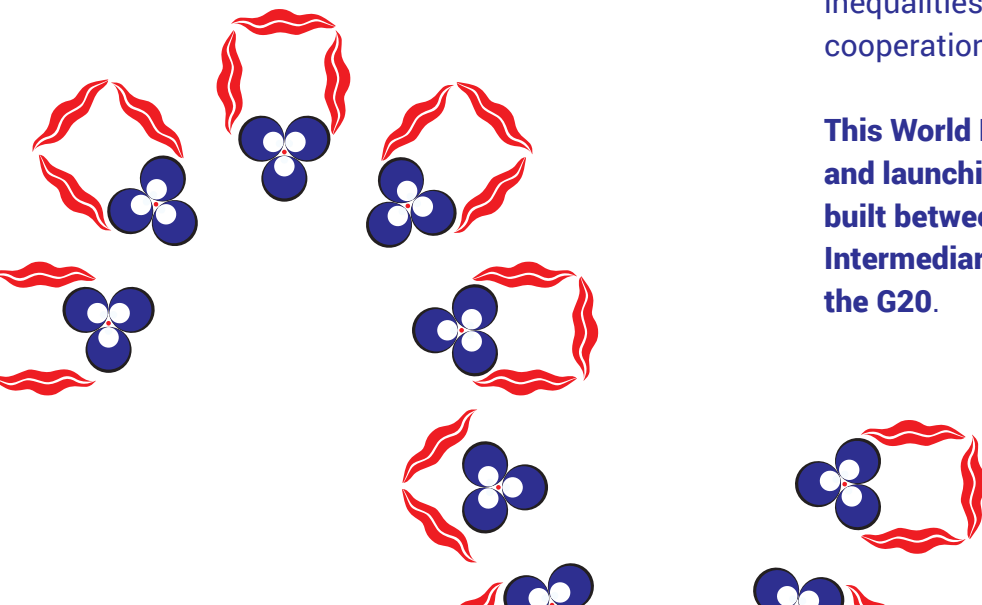
We, in UCLG, as well as other international institutions have been brainstorming on the the new era and the transformation it is demanding from us as a global community: the main challenge faced is whether we want it, we acknowledge it, and whether we accept it. Because these are new times, whether we accept it or not. There will be a world before the pandemic, and a world after the pandemic.

Our responsibility as international community and municipal movement is to prepare and support the populations and local governments to drive the transformation that is happening in the most adequate way for our people and for the planet.

These are indeed the key factors for development to be resilient, inclusive and healthy.

A key year for Intermediary Cities: they have been addressed, not only by Local Governments like up until now, but by the G20 Countries. The Italian Presidency did bring them as a key issue in the G20 agenda, making of them a key player in the Recovery efforts for fighting inequalities and seeking a more just cooperation and decentralization.

This World Forum will be acknowledging and launching the new synergy to be built between the Local Governments of Intermediary Cities through UCLG and the G20.



Objectives of the World Forum

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the urgency to pursue the ecological transformation of intermediary cities, in line with the trends identified during the 1st World Forum and laid out in the Chefchaouen Declaration. As catalysts of territorial development, it is fundamental to address the increasing pressure over intermediary cities and ensure we stand prepared to lead the way to an inclusive and resilient recovery.

On the basis of the consultations carried out this year, we will jointly define an outcome Declaration, drawing **the lines of the post-COVID world and sending a strong message to the global arena that the inclusive, caring and resilient world of the future requires a territorial approach through intermediary Cities.** The cultural diversity and the fight against inequalities of Intermediary Cities can **pave the way to a new set of essentials, which places care for the people and the planet at the center of our priorities.**

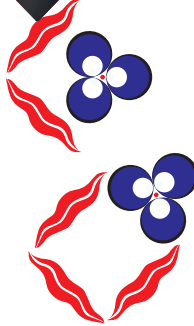
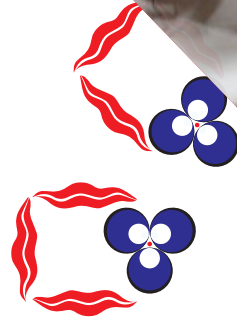
The Forum will bring forward the challenges Intermediary Cities face in the current crisis, the common solutions they offer to global challenges, as well as the alternatives to unlock the potential of these cities in shaping a different future.

Pact for the Future UCLG's multiannual strategy: Reshaping the future of our common planet

After the consultation gathered in May 2021, some key takeaways have been gathered, allowing to find a common ground between all of them: recommendations focusing on **the Citizenship**, and recommendations focusing on **policies and actions to be taken**. Both set of recommendations have a common ground that is based on the Environment and Ecological Transformation needed for a resilient planet.

Both documents will accompany a strong Declaration which aims at drawing the lines of the new era, the post-COVID world with/by/through Intermediary Cities.

The final aim is to contribute to the Pact for the Future, the multiannual strategy of UCLG, based on 3 components: People, Planet & Governance.



Methodology

The “potential to unlock” in the first world forum has been greatly heard by International Institutions. The results of the first important global gathering on Intermediary Cities did present some powerful results mentioned in the “Declaration of the Intermediary Cities of the World” that include:

- ▼ Living systems.
- ▼ Resilience structure for measuring the balance of concrete projects and local agendas based on the 5 capitals of Resilience.
- ▼ Enhancing the impact of green friendly policies and investments.
- ▼ Having prerogatives on natural resources as a key player, directly linked with local culture, as a paradigm to nurture and safeguard, while integrating smart technologies to enhance it.
- ▼ A definition that is based on the Intermediary Cities’ role of catalyst of development into the territory than the number of citizens which is more depending on the national and continental classification.

The Intermediary Cities 1st World Forum was **based upon the 5 capitals of Resilience**: Human-Social-

Economic-Cultural-Environmental. This methodology has allowed to arrive to the **Charter of Intermediary Cities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Intermediary Cities, based on the structure of Resilience capitals.**

Although the momentum has generated advocacy, financing, and implementation where Intermediary Cities were not identified as such before, the present moment of COVID has enhanced the challenges, while allowing a new perspective on the Intermediary Cities’ potential for resilience.



The dynamics and movement, as well as mobility of people have accelerated the impact on and increased the attractiveness of the Intermediary Cities. More than ever, Intermediary Cities have taken their places as intermediation poles in the territory, and this has allowed the generation of different stages of development, as they become part of the territory strategy and resilience balance.

Today, 3 years after the first Forum, and while still dealing with the COVID pandemic, the world is still looking for the processes, paradigms, methods, systems and models to be transformed.

Therefore, in preparation of the 2nd World Forum a series of Consultations are undertaken to listen, analyse, identify and position the role that the Intermediary Cities of the world are representing for the post-COVID world.

Some key takeaways, per criteria, were gathered from these consultations allowing to rethink the systemic patterns that will allow transformation to happen.

From those 4 takeaway documents and 2 set of recommendations have been developed, composing the ground for the Declaration of this 2nd World Forum. Each one of the consultation sessions will be bringing final recommendations to the World Forum sessions, under key and strategic high-level sessions.

UCLG World Forum of Intermediary Cities supported by key partnerships

This World Forum is building a new partnership with the G20, in order to allow an important global conversation between local governments and G20 countries. Some key partners have also been accompanying us along the way, and will be supportive institutions for the world Forum.

- ▼ OECD DEV Center
- ▼ Cities Alliance
- ▼ UN-Habitat
- ▼ UNDP
- ▼ International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (IOPD)
- ▼ ICLEI
- ▼ Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM)



Programme

UCLG
World Forum of
Intermediary Cities



DAY 1
CLIMATE DAY
October 5th

Format: Virtual through Zoom

13.30 to 15.30 CEST

High-level Dialogue. Intermediary Cities & the Planet for Climate Justice

16.00 to 17.30 CEST

Special session. Acting on Climate Justice: Enabling Intermediary Cities to join the Race to Resilience & Race to Zero

DAY 2
October 6th

Format: Virtual through Zoom

12.00 to 12.45 CEST

LOCAL4ACTION Hub Open Space in Wonder

13.30 to 15.30 CEST

Opening Plenary. Intermediary Cities for Equal Territories

16.00 to 17.30 CEST

Special Session. Intermediary Cities for Water Justice: from a regional to a global dynamic

DAY 3
October 7th

12.00 to 12.45 CEST

LOCAL4ACTION Hub Open Space in Wonder

Cultural and field visits in Kutahya

Welcome of in-person delegations

DAY 4
October 8^h

Hybrid Format:
In-person in Kutahya & Virtual

12.00 to 12.45 CEST

LOCAL4ACTION Hub Open Space in Wonder

13.30 to 15.30 CEST

High level Dialogue. From Kutahya to the World: Intermediary Cities for Caring Economies

16.00 to 17.30 CEST

High level Dialogue. Intermediary Cities for the Human dimension of the Transformation

17.30 to 18.30 CEST

Closing Plenary

LOCAL4ACTION Hub
Open Space
from the 6th to the 8th

Format: Virtual with 'Wonder'

Missing those days of in-person meetings? Remember when we would grab a coffee just outside the conference room and run into an exciting conversation? Join us in intimate virtual debates in the Wonder platform for a lively conversation!

More information and expression
of interest to organize
a session available on this form:
<https://forms.gle/pShkPTR4HF1QZets6>

