



UCLG CONGRESS
WORLD SUMMIT OF LOCAL
AND REGIONAL LEADERS

New Generation
of Universal Local
Public Services

Tangier
Local4Action

The Leadership of Local and Regional Governments in Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Development

Dialogue

Date and time: June 23, 16:00

Duration: 90 min

Lead organizer (Name / Institution): Local Economic and Social Development Commission

Co-organizers: Andalusian Municipal Fund for International Solidarity (FAMSI)

Background

Against a backdrop of profound global transformations, local and regional governments are emerging as key players in fostering more resilient, inclusive, and sustainable economies.

Beyond implementing public policies, local and regional governments lead territorial ecosystems where innovation, employment, entrepreneurship, the social economy, and the ecological transition converge, positioning local economic development as a strategic tool for improving quality of life and strengthening communities.

From supporting the local economy to promoting green and digital sectors, local governments are redefining development models from a people-centered perspective. This approach enables the creation of decent jobs, the promotion of labor rights, the expansion of opportunities for young people, women, and vulnerable groups, and the strengthening of fairer and more sustainable value chains.

Local economic development also plays a central role in the triple ecological, digital, and social transition, translating major global challenges into concrete actions tailored to each region. This includes fostering low-carbon economies, accelerating inclusive digitalization, and strengthening social cohesion to ensure that no one is left behind.

Among the emerging challenges, the care economy stands out, recognized as a strategic sector for well-being, gender equality, and social cohesion. Likewise, territorial financing is essential to ensure that local governments have the resources and capacities to mobilize investments and expand the impact of their policies.



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In this context, platforms such as the World Forum on Local Economic Development foster the exchange of experiences, international cooperation, and the development of collective solutions. The session will provide an opportunity to discuss the strategic role of local governments, define priorities for UCLG's new political cycle, and present the 7th edition of the World Forum on Local Economic Development.

Objectives / Expected outcomes

- Position local and regional governments as key actors in an inclusive, sustainable, and resilient economic transformation.
- Define the DEL Commission's priorities for UCLG's next political cycle.
- Promote local economic development through balanced and inclusive regional economies.
- Promote approaches centered on people, decent work, social inclusion, and equal opportunities.
- Recognize the care economy as essential for well-being, social cohesion, and sustainable development.
- Launch the 7th World Forum on Local Economic Development as a global space for collaboration and knowledge exchange

Agenda

Moderator:

- Francisco Toajas, Chair of the UCLG Committee on Local Economic and Social Development and member of the Seville Provincial Council

Speakers

- Francisco Reyes, President of FAMSI and member of the International Committee of the World Forum on Local Economic Development, Spain
- Sharon Dijksma, Mayor of Utrecht and President of VNG
- Anthoni Berthelot, Mayor of Indre, Nantes Métropole, France
- Emilia Saiz, Secretary General of UCLG (TBC)
- Representative of Gauteng/SALGA, South Africa
- Representative of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Canada



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- Representative of Montevideo, Uruguay

Official Opening of the 7th World Forum on Local Economic Development

- Francisco Reyes, President of FAMSI and member of the International Committee of the World Forum on Local Economic Development, Spain
- Representative of Gauteng/SALGA, South Africa
- Emilia Saiz, Secretary General of UCLG