

**Montevideo, a
destination of peace**



MONTEVIDEO DECLARATION

5th World Forum of Cities and Territories of Peace

Strengthening Participatory Governance for Peace and Coexistence: Local and Regional Governments as Key Actors in Peace in the Territories

May 2 and 3, 2025

PREAMBLE

Considering the important role played by local and regional governments in building peaceful societies and in preventing and resolving expressions of violence at the territorial level, as well as in their duty to care for people;

Confirming our commitment to City Diplomacy as transformative diplomacy, and building on peer-to-peer and decentralized collaboration;

Consolidating the World Forum of Cities and Territories of Peace as a process to promote local and regional public policies aimed at promoting the peaceful coexistence of citizens;

Underlining the legacy of the four editions of the FMCTP held in Madrid, Mexico City and Bogotá that has positively impacted the urban and territorial agendas of peace and coexistence, with approaches focused on human rights and care;

Emphasizing the importance of participatory governance in the construction of peaceful and inclusive cities and territories, and gathering the strength of the conversations in the framework of the V Forum in Montevideo;

Collecting the Hague Charter for Municipal Peace that calls on local and regional governments to address the structural causes of violence, promote participatory governance and foster social cohesion through inclusive public policies;

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Emphasizing that the international community as a whole, with its multilateral and territorial institutions and actors, has an imperative to guide and adapt its strategies and actions toward development solutions;

Building on the discussions and commitments achieved in the framework of the UCLG Peace Prize and the Local Social Covenant; the Mercociudades Cities' Commitment to Care; the Latin American and Caribbean Coalition of Cities against Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia (LAC Coalition); the IX Conference of the EU-LAC Observatory on Decentralised Cooperation: Decentralised cooperation and territorial peacebuilding; the "Governance for Human Rights, Peace, Security and Political Process" section of the Pact for the Future, and the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission, and the Urban Agenda for Peace and Nonviolence;

Underlining the unique position of local and regional governments as actors with direct connections to citizens and a deep understanding of local realities and their fundamental role in fostering peace and coexistence within their communities under an intersectional approach based on the fulfilment of human rights, particularly in a global context where States pose scenarios of tension in the political, economic and military spheres, with strong consequences in the territories;

DECLARATION

We, the local and regional governments and other civil society actors and the international community participating in the 5th World Forum of Cities and Territories of Peace, commit to Promote Public Policies for peace for People, the Planet and Government.

People

1. Promote participatory governance and intergenerational dialogue to achieve the participation of citizens, particularly young people, in the processes of identifying needs and priorities, as well as decision-making regarding solutions related building peace and coexistence, and the management of the resources allocated for such purposes, so that they adapt to their specific contexts.
2. Promote the Sustainable Development Goals, putting the fulfilment of human rights at the center with an intersectional approach that leaves no one behind on the basis

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of their origin, gender, race, religion or social status. Address structural inequalities, expanding the opportunities for the population to carry out their life project in their territories of origin, with responsibility to the planet, and supported by a social and institutional fabric that has effective tools for the management of differences.

3. Confront systemic discrimination, exploring and implementing solutions to the systemic problems that fuel it, including racial discrimination, xenophobia, as well as all other forms of intolerance and discrimination, and promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue; paying special attention to hate narratives on social networks.

4. Address the root causes of urban violence, implementing public policies and initiatives that are within our framework of competences and have an impact on phenomena such as intolerance, discrimination, inequality and social exclusion, strengthening access to housing and public services as a way to reduce the emergence of violence.

5. Develop inclusive policies that promote the integration of migrants and refugees into host communities, as well as the inclusion of women and traditionally marginalized groups so that they can be incident actors that contribute to the achievement of global development agendas.

6. Promote gender equality in public life, including through education, employment, access to information and political participation of women to strengthen their role in solving the problems of our communities. Combat gender-based violence through strategies to prevent and respond to its various expressions, including initiatives with a focus on care, awareness campaigns, victim support services and advocacy on regulatory reforms.

7. Facilitate access to justice, generating mechanisms that enable all residents, regardless of their income or social status, to resolve conflicts effectively, and considering both those who are part of the judicial branch of the public power, as well as alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

Planet

1. Combat new forms of violence, expressed in the form of eco-social tensions in the territories, that present unprecedented challenges to local authorities in their approach and resolution. In this context, unprecedented challenges for local authorities arise in terms of prevention, mitigation and response.

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2. Integrate climate justice and peace, addressing the inequalities generated by environmental disasters. As the effects of climate change impact cities, it is crucial to consider how adaptation and resilience policies can be an engine for peace, by preventing natural disasters and climate-forced displacement from generating new social tensions.
3. Address conflicts arising from the climate crisis and its effects on commons such as water and air, and potential expressions of violence. Protect the commons and their access as a way of exercising care policies, and of understanding goods as inherent to all people.
4. Building resilience at the local, regional and territorial level to protect people in vulnerable situations resulting from the climate crisis, including migrants who have been forced from their homes by climate change due to the transformation of their living conditions.

Government

1. Develop pedagogical approaches in our education systems that promote respect for diversity, tolerance, empathy, and critical thinking skills, so that new generations have fundamental tools for peaceful coexistence. In addition, promote education in human rights and democratic values.
2. Assign, to the extent of our possibilities, adequate resources for the construction of peace and coexistence, including allocations for urban violence prevention programs, community development projects and social inclusion programs. Provide basic public services and urban interventions that improve the social fabric, enhance social coexistence, and influence the management and reduction of urban violence, as well as generate scenarios for coexistence and social cohesion.
3. Support local, regional, territorial and community initiatives for peace and coexistence that promote dialogue, reconciliation and conflict resolution within our territories and beyond.
4. Strengthen strategic institutional articulations with different levels of government and branches of public power, with the aim of increasing the effectiveness of multisectoral local, regional and territorial public policies for peace and coexistence, and respond to urban violence based on harmonious coordination with security forces and justice operators.

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5. Promote a culture of peace and coexistence through awareness campaigns and cultural transformation programs that change patterns of citizen relations with what is different, facilitate coexistence based on diversity, and peaceful resolution of disputes.
6. Strengthen the diplomacy of cities and regions, multilateralism, and collaboration strategies with peers, international organizations, and civil society, to promote peace from the territorial level. Promote dialogue between national, subnational, and international actors to jointly address shared challenges arising from multiple expressions of violence.
7. Incorporate the policy coherence approach for peacebuilding and coexistence at the heart of government action, promoting the necessary transformations towards a participatory governance model that pursues the common good.
8. Dedicate adequate financial and institutional resources to support the participation of local and regional governments in international forums, city-to-city cooperation programs and other forms of international participation, so that our citizens and territories benefit from global collaboration.
9. Advance the Urban and Territorial Agendas for Peace and Coexistence, developing local action plans to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a particular focus on Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and Goal 17 (Partnerships to Achieve the Goals), and mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of peacebuilding initiatives.