



United Nations

— HABITAT III —
URBAN LIBRARY REPORT

Submitted by Lead Organization	
Name of lead organization	United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)
City and country where organization is based	Barcelona, Spain
Title of Urban Library event	LAUNCH OF THE 4TH GLOBAL REPORT ON LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND DECENTRALIZATION CO-CREATING THE URBAN FUTURE: THE AGENDA OF METROPOLISES, CITIES AND TERRITORIES
Date of Urban Library event	10/17/2016
Name of partner organizations with information on city, and country where organization is based	UCLG Africa, Rabat, Morocco; CEMR, Brussels, Belgium; FLACMA, Brasilia, Brazil, ASPAC, Jakarta, Indonesia; MEWA, Istanbul, Turkey; UCLG Eurasia, Kazhan, Russia.
Number of participants	100
Percentage of women participants at the event	40%



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Concise summary of the event proceedings, including key points discussed.

The GOLD Launch at Habitat III took advantage of the accessibility and visibility of the Urban Library at the Casa de la Cultura to engage a large audience in a debate on the future of metropolises, intermediary cities, territories, regions and small towns and their role in the definition and implementation of the new international agendas. Introduced by Josep Roig, Secretary General of UCLG, elected local leaders like Denis Coderre, Mayor of Montreal and President of Metropolis, and Mercè Conesa, President of the Province of Barcelona, shared the floor with officials from international organizations - Ayat Soliman, Practice Manager for the World Bank, and Rudiger Ahrend, from the OECD's Directorate for Public Governance and Territorial Development - and academic experts. While Mr. Coderre emphasized the role of urban leaders and local authorities in the creation of true cooperation to face the challenges of the urban future, Ms. Conesa highlighted the importance that a cohesive and integrated territory - in which urban policies are able to positively engage and affect the lives of the various urban settlements involved - can have in creating human-sized and affordable policies, while also making the voice of local governments heard louder in the decision-making processes that take place at the national and international level. Ms. Soliman and Mr. Ahrend contributed significantly to a debate which has to take international institutions and organizations into deeper consideration as partners in the establishment of effective urban coalitions: they stressed the importance of equality, ownership and opportunities for all local contexts and stakeholders to really have a say and gain centrality in the definition of the new development goals and tools. Dr. Edgar Pieterse, Director of the African Centre for Cities, finally, closed the session with a few powerful remarks on the challenges ahead, the pressures - demographic, climatic, economic, social and cultural - that await cities around the world: his call for further cooperation and integration, among cities able to innovate, exchange knowledge and practices, made a strong point for the realization of the new global agendas - and defined a whole new set of ambitious objectives for local governments around the world. The GOLD IV Report advances an agenda for local and regional governments that looks beyond Habitat III and the consensus on the New Global Agenda. In its chapters, the report explores the strength and weaknesses, the shortcomings and the immense opportunities with which human settlement will have to be prepared in the next few years. The Urban Library, an exclusive venue in the context of the world's largest and most important conference on sustainable human settlements, has been an invaluable opportunity to present the achievements of this work, engage the public with the data it presents and the conclusions it draws, and strengthen the bond of the community of local leaders and experts that has made its realization possible.



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<p>Concise summary of the publication launched or promoted at the event.</p>	<p>GOLD IV studies the role that local and regional governments can play within the the Agenda 2030, the Paris Agreement on Climate, and the New Urban Agenda. As emphasized in the report, the contribution of local and regional governments will be critical. Indeed, the world is witnessing an encouraging proliferation of sustainability-driven ‘experiments’ in urban settlements and territories across the world. The scope, diffusion and effects of these experiments can be crucial to the achievement of the global agendas and to foster the emergence of a whole new way of defining urban and territorial governance. Against this backdrop, local and regional governments can be empowered to catalyse an inclusive process – consistent with principles of local democracy and the Right to the City – to co-create our urban future and our territories. For this purpose, GOLD IV presents the foundation of the Global Agenda of Local and Regional Governments for the coming decade, a set of policy recommendations for all actors and stakeholders in the local and regional governance system. This agenda for metropolises, cities and territories is UCLG’s legacy and contribution to the global debate and an invitation to take the next step and foster a truly global and inclusive alliance for our urban future</p>
<p>Name, title, and organization of the 1st speaker</p>	<p>Denis Coderre, Mayor of Montréal and President of Metropolis, Canada</p>
<p>Name, title, and organization of the 2nd speaker</p>	<p>Mercé Conesa, President of the Province of Barcelona, Spain</p>
<p>Name, title, and organization of the 3rd speaker</p>	<p>Rudiger Ahrend, Head of the Urban Programme, Regional Development Division, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD</p>
<p>Name, title, and organization of the 4th speaker</p>	<p>Ayat Soliman, Practice Manager for Urban, Social and DRM in the Middle East and North Africa, World Bank</p>
<p>Name, title, and organization of the 5th speaker</p>	<p>Josep Roig, Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)</p>
<p>Name, title, and organization of the 6th speaker</p>	<p>Edgar Pieterse, Director of the African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town, South Africa</p>