

Municipality of Kazan

UCLG EXECUTIVE BUREAU

25-28 MAY 2016
KAZAN



KAZAN HOSTED UCLG EXECUTIVE BUREAU MEETING

UCLG Executive Bureau took place in Kazan from 25 to 27 May with over 200 representatives present from some 90 cities and local and regional authorities from all around the world, along with important figures from the urban world.

The Executive Bureau is responsible for initiating proposals and carrying out the decisions of the World Council. It is in charge of the World Organizations' administrative and financial management. Composed of 115 members, it meets twice a year and usually gathers around 200 participants.

Kazan is the first city of Eurasian region which got the right to host this high level event.



CHANNELLING OUR EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE THE WELL-BEING OF CITIZENS

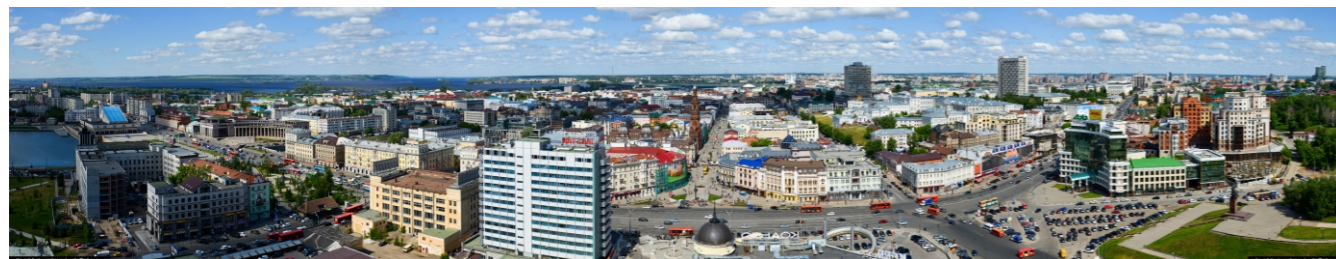
The Mayor of Kazan, President of the Eurasian Section and Co-President of UCLG, **Ilsur Metshin**, opened the Executive Bureau meetings together with the President of Tatarstan, **Rustam Minnikhanov**; President of the State Council, **Farid Mukhametshin**; the Mayor of Victoria, Seychelles, **Jacqueline Moustache-Belle**; UCLG Secretary General, **Josep Roig**; and the economics professor **Richard Florida**. The opening session was attended by representatives from cities in Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Middle East.



In his address, the President of Tatarstan thanked the Mayor of Kazan, who has made a notable contribution to the work of UCLG, for his hard work:

"In a very short space of time, UCLG has become an

influential global organization, by successfully promoting cooperation between cities and effectively defending the interests of local authorities. Over the next few days, Kazan will play an active role in the global municipal movement".



Ilsur Metshin stressed the importance of continuous dialogue with urban communities.

"Our main objective is to create a pleasant urban environment, by providing a decent life and working conditions for citizens. It fills me with pride that leaders of cities and regions are increasingly willing to share their experiences and knowledge with other colleagues", declared the Mayor, thanking the first President of UCLG, the former Mayor of Paris, **Bertrand Delanoë**, and the current President of UCLG, the Mayor of



Istanbul, **Kadir Topbas**, for their contributions to the organization. **Ilsur Metshin** also praised the creation of a global

network of city authorities, and local and regional governments as the organization's principal achievement.

Kadir Topbas, who joined the meetings on 27 May, celebrated that UCLG gathers in all corners of the world, and thanked the Mayor of Kazan and his staff as well as the citizens of Kazan for their hospitality.



"As UCLG consolidates its place on the international stage and as our movement becomes stronger, the commitment of local political leaders from across the world will become increasingly important in order to contribute to the well-being of the citizens that we serve."

OUR MOVEMENT, STRONGER THAN EVER TOWARDS HABITAT III

The meetings in Kazan were held a week after the intense days in New York, where a large delegation of members of UCLG and the Global Taskforce attended the Habitat III Local Authorities Hearings and the first session of the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments.

In this respect, in her opening speech, **Jacqueline Moustache-Belle** recalled the main messages and the vision of local and regional governments for the development of the international agenda: 1) Strengthening local democracy and citizens' capacities; 2) Working towards the recognition of the key role that local governments play in developing the international agenda, and



not only in implementing it; and 3) Gaining a place at the international negotiating table as a sphere of government, in order to contribute to the debate and to the decisions.

At the Kazan meetings, the main recommendations of the Global Report on Decentralization and Local Democracy (GOLD IV) were presented; the consultations leading to the development of the report have informed the

positions of local governments in international agendas. In addition, a Declaration on *Intermediary Cities* was adopted.

The UCLG Learning Agenda also had a dedicated slot, and was presented by the Mayor of Durban, **James Nxumalo**, who stressed the need to strengthen the exchange of specific experiences between cities and to structure the agenda around the Sustainable Development Goals.



A PROGRAM BUILT FROM THE BOTTOM UP

The agenda included the meetings of the Working Group on Intermediary Cities, the Taskforce on Local Government Disaster Response, the Committee on Urban Strategic Planning, the Financial Management Committee and the Committee on Statutory Affairs.

On the second day, debates were held to exchange best practices, which provided the opportunity to discuss priorities for ensuring a sustainable future for our cities, the path towards transparent governance, living together and the



development of sustainable tourism. These meetings featured speakers from a range of backgrounds, such as economists, urban planners and international experts,

among which the former Mayor of London, **Ken Livingstone**, **Jose Aseillo**, **Vukan Vuchic**, **Mikhail Blinkin** and **Richard Florida** should be highlighted.



TWO SPECIAL SESSIONS: TOWARDS THE RENEWED GOVERNANCE OF THE WORLD ORGANISATION

The special sessions focused on **UCLG Priorities for 2016-2022**, a triennial exercise that takes place in the lead up to UCLG Congresses and culminates during the early period of the new UCLG leadership, spring 2017 in this case.

Facilitated by **Richard Kemp**, City Councillor for Liverpool, the aim of the session was to identify the priority areas and issues to be addressed in the new strategic document. The session included statements from **Parks Tau**, Mayor of Johannesburg, and **Berry Vrbanovic**, Mayor of Kitchener and UCLG Treasurer.



Encouraging the participation of political representatives with specific mandates, strengthening collaboration as a network, scaling-up activities at regional and

national levels in order to make them better known, and building the capacity of members were highlighted as the key axes for the next stage of the organization's work.

ASSOCIATION OF THE VOLGA REGION CITIES MEETING

In the framework of the meetings of the UCLG Executive Bureau May, 27 there was a General Meeting of the Association of the Volga region Cities, the Chairman of that is Ilsur Metshin.



The meeting participants discussed the preparations for the World Cup in 2018 as one of the factors of urban development. Recall World Championship 2018 will be held in 11 Russian cities from 14 June to 15 July.

