



Soria Commitment 2019

We, the participants of the second edition of the International Congress of Soria to Think Europe based on the 2030 Commitment, and the members of the UCLG Forum of Intermediary Cities, call to think about the future of territories and the planet collectively, taking into account the needs and aspirations of the communities and committed to the values and principles reflected in the universal 2030 Agenda.

Inspired by the Charter-Agenda for Intermediary Cities resulting from the World Forum in Chefchaouen, and by the CEMR Manifesto for the European Elections adopted in Ludwigsburg we reiterate:

- That the promotion of local economic development, social equality, the cultural anchoring of development and responsibility towards the environment, including rural areas as an essential ally, are key for citizens to live well and for the territories to **fully develop**.
- That it is necessary to specify **multilevel partnerships** as a regulatory mechanism for the definition and implementation of local, national and global agendas.
- That it is important to strengthen **systems of local solidarity** in order to achieve the global goals, from a human scale that is essentially found in intermediary cities, whatever their size.
- That the resilience of intermediary cities is linked to the strength of their **identity, their culture and the respect for diversity**.
- That we can only construct management and life models that respond to the challenges identified globally and played out in big cities **with the involvement of metropolises and all territories**.
- That in 2019, the European Union faces a change in the political cycle in which part of its future will be played out, and that the 2030 Agenda can and should be an inspiring framework and a milestone to achieve a **more prosperous and sustainable Europe that is close to its citizens**.

That is why, in the era of urbanization, we call for cohesive territorial development, and propose:

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals, on which the fulfilment of humanity's commitment towards 2030 depend, must be **our road map** and a key part of action programmes, both municipal and national, across Europe and the world.



Public services managed by local administrations are the backbone of this development agenda and must receive adequate funding and competencies. The concept of “**good living**” defined by our communities must become a model that facilitates territorial justice and promotes the protection of rights and values.

Natural resources must be understood as the heritage of humanity and their use and preservation should take into account future generations and territorial cohesion.

Intergenerational dialogue must become a structural part of our consultation and decision mechanisms to plan the future together.

Localization must be understood as a way to anchor territorial opportunities and identities, and as an open door to solidarity **across the world**.

Territorial cohesion policy mechanisms must be the 2030 Agenda’s basic principles as core guidelines.

For this purpose, we commit to:

- **Work as a network**, so that thinking about our cities allows us to think about the world together and in solidarity, under the umbrella of our national, regional, continental, and global associations.
- **Put communities at the heart** of our action.
- **Understand governance as a shared, inclusive and transparent responsibility.**
- **Encourage creativity, innovation, and inclusive transformation** that leaves no one behind.
- **Build spaces for dialogue** to reinforce the role that local and territorial policies should play in the definition of national, regional, continental, and global plans.
- **Align our local priorities and capacities to the Sustainable Development Goals** and ensure that municipal services and policies act as guarantees to achieve the commitments of the 2030 Agenda.
- Encourage and accompany local authorities in the new European policy cycle and in the implementation of new instruments, particularly through **active participation in planning processes, and discussions on the new association frameworks** of the European Union’s cohesion policy.
- **Urge associations of local authorities to reflect, in light of this declaration and the Chefchaouen Charter, on their national realities** and the role that intermediary cities must play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in dialogue with national authorities.

**THINK
EUROPE**
COMMITMENT 2030



**Intermediary Cities
key for development**

January 16th-18th 2019 – Soria, Spain

United in the international municipal movement, we will continue to contribute to foster alliances among all actors and strengthen the exchange among cities around the world through the UCLG Forum of Intermediary Cities.

We recognize the efforts of the Governments of Spain and Morocco to put local governments, and in particular intermediary cities, at the heart of development. We thank the Ibero-American Secretariat for its support and collaboration, as well as the European Union for supporting the strengthening of local governments across the world.

We congratulate Chefchaouen and Soria for their vision and leadership. We thank the people of Soria for their warm welcome.

Thinking about Soria, we think about Europe and the world!