

Report

The ten key areas for action

2019-2023 term of office



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of office

Department of
International Relations
Barcelona City Council

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**Ajuntament
de Barcelona**

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A Introduction

Barcelona, a European and Mediterranean city open to the world which combines assets as diverse as talent attraction, technological and scientific innovation, internationally connected knowledge centres, city networks and organisations specialising in key issues, important world events and outward-looking business and social fabrics, has one of its hallmarks in the international arena. Having such a privileged range of assets also implies a responsibility, as it confers on the city a pre-eminently international capacity and a clear aptitude for bringing the voice of cities to other spaces and levels of governance, enabling it to act –in accordance with the City Council’s priority areas– as a global player with a transformational vocation.

Consistent with this responsibility, Barcelona City Council has always placed great importance to its international action. Three municipal areas in particular are tasked with fostering this area from complementary approaches: the Department of International Economic Promotion; the Department of Global Justice and International Cooperation, and the Department of International Relations. Led by the Third Deputy Mayor, Laia Bonet, during the 2019-2023 term of office, the Department of International Relations –whose main goals include promoting Barcelona’s interaction with and impact on the world as well as coordinating and giving coherence and support to the City Council’s international activity– was tasked with implementing municipal foreign policies assigned under the remit of the Third Deputy Mayor’s Office.

It is also worth noting how the importance and usefulness of international action could be clearly seen during the recent crises, caused by the Covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine: the exchanges with other cities, the international political incidence of local governments and the work within international networks or bodies have proved to be key elements, as this document’s respective sections will show. At the same time, the experiences and lessons learned from this international work carried out in times of crisis allow us to affirm that Barcelona in particular and cities in general are more prepared for tackling future challenges.

Likewise, it should also be noted that the City Council's foreign action is in line with the 2030 Agenda –as will be explained, the City Council's International Relations Master Plan for 2020-2023 is structured according to the five principles ("the five Ps") that organize this agenda– and international local action will therefore fall within the main global political framework. The city's priorities are accordingly linked to the global challenges recognised by the United Nations. At the same time, this alignment enables us to adapt or localise the world agenda, thus giving it meaning when giving shape to its strategic principles and goals through actions carried out at the local level, the one closest to citizens.

This report presents the Department of International Relations' 10 key areas for action during the 2019-2023 term of office –Mayor Ada Colau's second term of office– classed according to the 2030 Agenda's five Ps mentioned above. As will be seen, these were priority areas for the municipal government during the period which were strengthened and given added value by international action.

The report also presents the strategic documents drawn up during the term of office (the International Relations Master Plan, the Asia and Euro-Mediterranean strategies) with the aim of making international action more effective, the agreements signed by Barcelona with other cities (specifying the bilateral work and providing proof of the good relations with cities in various continents) and the international declarations adopted, which concretise the advocacy work carried out not just in the framework of formal and informal city networks but also jointly with other cities on specific issues at certain times.

The Mayor of Kyiv, Vitali Klitschko, visited Barcelona during the 2022 La Mercè festivities and, as one of the measures of support for the Ukrainian capital, it was decided in April this year that it should be the guest city for the 2023 festival. Klitschko is also President of the Association of Ukrainian Cities (photo: Barcelona City Council).



B Giving shape to international action strategies

1. International Relations Master Plan

The Government Measure [“Barcelona, Global City. International Relations Master Plan 2020-2023”](#), the City Council’s first International Relations Master Plan, was presented in July 2020 with the aim of strengthening Barcelona’s international action in the context of the crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The document’s main goals are to: (a) consolidate Barcelona as a global player and with its own voice in the construction of an international, EU and Mediterranean stage which, as set out in the United Nations’ principles, seeks to strengthen peace, international cooperation and the reduction of economic and social inequalities; (b) strengthen the quality of the municipal services provided, through knowledge exchanges with other cities, both at a bilateral level and within the framework of multilateral spaces; and (c) strengthen the city’s international promotion for the purposes of attracting talent and opportunities.

The plan is divided into 24 lines of action grouped under five strategic goals that follow the logic of the five principles or “five Ps” which organize the 2030 Agenda:

1. Partnerships and alliances: Barcelona, a global city. To strengthen strategic alliances, at local and international level, to project Barcelona, its citizens and municipal policies in the world. This includes nine lines of action.
2. Prosperity: Barcelona, the capital of technological humanism. To position Barcelona as a scientific and technological hub which promotes a model of technological development with the people at the centre, and with an impact on the European and international digital and innovation agenda. This includes six lines of action.
3. People: Barcelona, a city of rights. To promote the defence of rights, feminism and diversity in the international action of the City Council, in order to contribute to European and global spaces and agendas that foster human rights, gender equality and the recognition of new digital and climate rights. This includes three lines of action.

4. Planet: Barcelona Green Deal. To promote a political and financial framework, European and international, favourable to the model of fair ecological transition of the Barcelona Green Deal. This includes three lines of action.
5. Peace: Barcelona, a city committed to multilateralism. To promote the reform of the multilateral system to make it more inclusive, with the possibility of active participation of cities on the international stage, and defend the interests of Barcelona and its inhabitants. This includes three lines of action.

2. Asia Strategy

The [Asia Strategy](#), the city's first strategy on Barcelona's relations with that region, was presented in November 2022. Drafted in collaboration with Casa Àsia, it aims to boost relations in key areas such as innovation, sustainable tourism, economic promotion and logistics.

The document is divided into five blocks: (a) Importance of Asia in the global context; (b) Analysis of the current relations between Barcelona and the region; (c) Strategic lines of raising Barcelona's profile in Asia; (d) Strategic cities for Barcelona, and (e) Monitoring mechanisms, setting out four specific actions.

City players working in economic, social and institutional relations with Asia that also took part in drafting the document: Fira de Barcelona, Port of Barcelona, the Barcelona Supercomputing Center, the Zona Franca Consortium, the Institut Ramon Llull, the Barcelona Chamber of Commerce and the Barcelona Air Routes Development Committee.

Presentation of the Asia Strategy at City Hall, during an event headed by the Deputy Mayor, Laia Bonet (photo: Casa Àsia).



3. Euro-Mediterranean Strategy

In April 2023, the City Council presented its first [Euro-Mediterranean Strategy](#), the result of joint work with the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) and in collaboration with the MedCities network. This is a road map aimed at giving a new impetus to Euro-Mediterranean policies and positioning Barcelona as the capital of this region, not just in the political arena but also in the economic, social and cultural spheres.

The plan is divided into two blocks. The first block, “Diagnosis”, includes (a) Context and importance of the Euro-Mediterranean region for Barcelona; (b) Spanish government’s foreign policy and the Catalan government’s foreign action towards the Mediterranean; (c) Foreign action towards the Mediterranean on the local level; (d) State of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation of the City Council and the Union for the Mediterranean, and (e) Conclusions. The second block, “Strategy”, includes 19 action fact sheets proposing specific initiatives.

C The ten key areas for action

The Department of International Relations' key areas for action during the term of office are presented in accordance with the above-mentioned five strategic goals of the City Council's International Relations Master Plan, following the logic of the 2030 Agenda's "five Ps" (Partnerships and alliances; Prosperity; People; Planet and Peace) and falling within its lines of action:

Partnerships and alliances: Barcelona, a global city

To strengthen strategic alliances, at local and international level, to project Barcelona, its citizens and municipal policies in the world.

1. International action in response to the pandemic

Linked to line of action 1.1 of the International Relations Master Plan: Strengthening strategic alliances and promote learning projects, cooperation and co-creation of joint policies with other cities around the world.

As of March 2020 and over the following months, the City Council's international action was at the service of the municipal response to the health and economic crisis brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic. Efforts were focused on supporting the city in very diverse aspects, as required in a situation that arose as fast as it was unexpected.

From the outset, we worked to anticipate the needs that emerged from the pandemic, based on the **experiences of other cities**. Priority was initially given to exchanges with Italian cities, which had been living with the emergency for two weeks when the State of Emergency was declared. Work was subsequently intensified, in addition to the bilateral exchanges with various cities, **in the framework of city networks**, on both European and global levels. Notable exchange spaces included Eurocities, UCLG (which, together with Metropolis and UN-Habitat, organised the #BeyondTheOutBreak live learning meetings that the Mayor of Barcelona, Ada Colau, and several deputy mayors took part in), C40 and CIDEU.

At the same time, work was carried out during the first weeks of the crisis on aspects such as **managing donations of medical supplies** (especially those from Chinese cities and the city's Chinese and Korean communities) and **support for the consular corps** in Barcelona in their work of assisting non-residents caught in the city following the declaration of the state of emergency.

Later, more importance was attached to actions relating to **political advocacy and coordination to raise European recovery funds**, promoting common positions among European cities in favour of a **social and solidarity response to the crisis**, and **reviving the economy** (highlighting the measures followed by other cities), **the digital agenda** as a response to the crisis and **investments in science**.

Finally, it is worth noting the **mechanisms established to ensure a flow of information** between the City Council and all the other cities. Two reports were published in English on the lessons learnt and how the City Council was focusing on recovery, while the Department of International Relations periodically updated a set of other cities' measures, in particular those relating to the provision of social services, economic recovery and managing lockdown easing, which was sent to the various municipal areas.

For further information, see the report entitled "[Barcelona City Council's international action during the Covid-19 crisis](#)" (12 pages in Catalan), published by the Third Deputy Mayor in July 2020.

May 2020 saw Mayor Ada Colau take part in the online session entitled "Women's leadership in the post-Covid-19 era. A local and regional leaders' perspective", which was held in the framework of the #BeyondTheOutBreak "live learning experiences" co-organised by UN-Habitat, UCLG and Metropolis (images: UCLG).



2. Commitment to municipalism through city networks

Linked to line of action 1.3 of the International Relations Master Plan: Making a commitment towards international municipalism and affecting global agendas to strengthen the role of cities in global governance, through municipal networks.

During the term of office, the City Council continued to strengthen its clear commitment to the international political advocacy of cities through municipalist networks, some having their headquarters in Barcelona and working closely with the City Council: United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG, the world's main city network), Metropolis, the International Association of Educating Cities (IAEC) and the Ibero-American Centre for Urban Strategic Development (CIDEU).

Notable landmarks of the period include the UCLG's **appointment of Mayor Ada Colau as special envoy for cities to the United Nations**. Her three-year appointment was made during the network's sixth World Congress, held in Durban in November 2019. This appointment led to the Mayor speaking at **important events marking the UN's 75th anniversary**, such as the high-level session entitled "An inclusive dialogue on the United Nations we need", of October 2020, where she asserted the role of cities in world governance and multilateralism where the role of local and regional governments is recognised.

Further confirmation of how Barcelona is recognised by European and world cities came in November 2021, when European cities once again chose Barcelona (the city topping the vote) as a **member of the Executive Committee** of the **Eurocities** network (in fact, Barcelona is a founding member of this network and has a long history of active participation in its various forums and working groups, for example, chairing the Digital Forum between 2021 and 2023). That same week saw the Mayor appointed as the **Deputy Chair for Europe** of the **C40** network of cities against climate change (further information in the "Action against climate change and the energy crisis" section), at the same time as the Mayor of London was chosen as its new Chair.

It is also worth noting that the UCLG's 7th World Congress and Summit of Local and Regional Leaders held in Daejeon in October 2022 approved a political declaration entitled "Pact for the Future of Humanity", which is divided into three areas: people, planet, and government, and is intended to become a roadmap for the international municipalist movement over the coming years. In this framework, the **Mayor of Barcelona was appointed ambassador for the Pact for the Future of People**.

As regards its commitment to municipalism at the European level, it is worth recalling that the City Council organised the **Eurocities Social Affairs** Forum in Barcelona in May 2022 (further information in the section on social rights and feminist transformation).

Mayor Ada Colau speaking at the sixth UCLG World Congress held in Durban in November 2019, where she was appointed special envoy for cities to the UN (photo: UCLG).



3. Coordinating European funds and projects

Linked to line of action 1.2 of the International Relations Master Plan: Establishing a work agenda with the institutions of the European Union to strengthen the transformative role of Barcelona and o maximise the political and financial opportunities of the city at the European level.

Coordination mechanism for presenting candidacies and European projects embarked on

In 2019, the Department of International Relations launched a **Coordination mechanism** for presenting candidacies in European-level initiatives, with the two-fold goal of optimising the City Council's participation and maximising the resources obtained from competitive European funding.

Throughout the term of office **the City Council launched 27 European projects** spanning a wide variety of fields, notably those relating to political priorities and, in particular, urban mobility, followed by projects dealing with ICTs, the struggle against climate change and sustainable development.

Especially noteworthy were the projects associated with **EIT Urban Mobility**, a European multinational public-private platform with its headquarters in Barcelona aimed at researching and applying solutions for improving the use of urban spaces and ensuring multi-modal, accessible, safe, efficient and sustainable mobility. Of all the 27 projects, eight were enshrined in this financial instrument.

As for the City Council's role in the projects, **it led four** of the 27 active during the term of office. The funding raised through the European projects came to around **€7 million**.

Technical Secretariat in charge of preparing the Next Generation EU projects

From 2020 on, the Department of International Relations' European Programme played an active part in the work of the Technical Secretariat in charge of **designing and coordinating the City Council's participation in calls for Next Generation EU (NGEU) funds**, an extraordinary financial instrument for fighting against the economic and social consequences of the Covid-19 crisis.

This Technical Secretariat, launched by the Manager's Office for the 2030 Agenda, Digital Transition, Territorial Coordination and Sport, initially corresponded to the task of drafting a report with the city's priority projects eligible for NGEU funding ("Barcelona Dossier"). The secretariat designed an operational, organisational and governance model to tackle the City Council's organisational complexity and support the participating departments throughout the life cycles of the projects, putting special emphasis on aspects relating to implementation, management and reporting.

The European EIT Urban Mobility project was officially opened at the Smart City Expo World Congress in 2019, where Mayor Ada Colau held discussions with the Mayor of Milan, Giuseppe Sala; the Chair of SEAT, Luca de Meo, and the Rector of the UPC, Francesc Torres (photo: Barcelona City Council).



4. Thinking about cities within the global framework

Linked to line of action 1.9 of the International Relations Master Plan: Fostering reflection and specialised thinking on the role of Barcelona on the international scene, supporting institutions and promoting initiatives that generate knowledge about cities and offer solutions to local and global challenges.

During the term of office, the Department of International Relations gave its support to two programmes focusing on the global role of cities contributing to Barcelona's consolidation as an international centre of analysis and debate open to city residents and the world, and which, at the same time, offered a window of interaction with centres and institutions of several countries, with international bodies and with city networks.

CIDOB's "Global Cities" programme

This programme has been receiving support since it started in 2018. It was considered a priority to promote the development of this space of excellence in applied research in the field of global cities in Barcelona. Its lines of research are aimed at meeting the needs expressed by the City Council, the city's players and international municipalism as a whole.

The 2019-2023 period saw the programme's research agenda structured around three lines of research, closely linked to the 2030 Agenda and some of the main challenges that it proposes to tackle: (1) **cities as international players**, especially their contribution to global governance; (2) **the socio-economic challenges of cities**, with special emphasis on the new inequalities created by digital transition processes, and (3) **the environmental challenges of global cities**, prioritising analyses not just of the impact but also of the policies being promoted by cities for tackling the climate crisis.

Some of the most notable results of the activity generated in the framework of the first line of research have been the organisation of spaces for reflection and the drafting of publications analysing the impact of the new global order on cities, how these are positioning themselves on international agendas, and to what extent they are taking part in the structures of international (world or European) governance through urban diplomacy. There has been **exhaustive monitoring of the ecosystem of international city networks** and, since 2021, the programme has adapted its research agenda to give a more central role to the crisis brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic and the **role of cities in the context of the post-pandemic transformation and recovery**. Noteworthy in this latter field is the **Urban Recovery Watch** project launched jointly with Eurocities. Along the same lines, the new **crisis caused by the war in Ukraine** and its implications for the ecosystem of cities and their networks has been incorporated as a research item, since 2022.

As regards the second line, research has been organised around the analysis of five major scenarios for configuring new socio-economic challenges for global cities: (1) **digitalisation of the economy and its impact on the urban arena**, focusing the analysis on a study of the possibilities for regulating tourist rental platforms; (2) **ethical governance of disruptive technologies** and, in particular, AI (embarked on and led, within this framework, by the Global Observatory of Urban Artificial Intelligence); (3) the **socio-economic fractures of cities**, especially with regard to the housing emergency and the pandemic's impact on the increase in social unrest and urban protests; (4) **hosting migrants**, with special emphasis on asylum seekers and unaccompanied young migrants; (5) **cities at times of crisis** which, in response to the current situation, has involved a study of the efforts made by the local authorities in the post-pandemic reconstruction of cities in line with the principles of a fair transition.

Lastly, the third line of research includes publications and the organisation of seminars around the mechanisms through which cities and their networks contribute to global climate governance, as well as identifying good innovative practices in this field. Specifically they note the contributions from an urban perspective on the **key issues of each edition of the COP**, the **transformation of mobility**, ecological transition within the framework of the **European Green Deal**, Euro-Mediterranean cooperation, climate funding, the environmental dimension to digitalisation, climate diligence and promotion of the blue economy.

The Catalunya Europa Foundation's "Re-City" Platform

The aim behind this programme, which was supported in 2019 and 2020, was to develop a benchmark space in Barcelona for discussions and dialogue between the academic, scientific, social, citizen, business and institutional sectors, to contribute ideas and solutions for the big challenges from an urban perspective, in particular **inequality, climate change and interculturality**.

Notable activities carried out under the programme include the presentation, in the Catalan Economists' Association, of the document "**Exploring the Limits of Consensus to Combat Inequalities**" (June 2019), which summarised the 52 proposals resulting from the "Combating Inequalities" cycle held in 2017 and 2018, where various experts, including Joseph Stiglitz, Kate Pickett and Gabriel Zucman, discussed and debated several measures with business, union and institutional representatives for putting a halt to growing inequalities. The proposals were geared towards business, employment, institutions and public policies, taxation and civil society.

Prosperity: Barcelona, the capital of technological humanism

To position Barcelona as a scientific and technological hub which promotes a model of technological development with the people at the centre, and with an impact on the European and international digital and innovation agenda.

5. Internationalisation of the digital agenda

Linked to line of action 2.1 of the International Relations Master Plan: Boosting actions, alliances and strategies aimed at fostering a digital agenda based on technological humanism, especially in relation to the European Union and within the framework of the Eurocities Knowledge Society Forum, as well as the Cities Coalition for Digital Rights.

One of the clear priorities during the term of office for the Third Deputy Mayor's Office –being in charge of the City Council's Digital Transition and international relations– was to develop and internationalise the digital agenda and strengthen Barcelona's impact in this area, in the European framework in particular, a task that became especially important with regard to digital inclusion owing to the crisis caused by the pandemic.

One of the first landmarks was the declaration of Barcelona as the **Chair of the Eurocities network's Digital Forum** in November 2020. The city, which led this forum for two and a half years, met the goals of becoming a major player at the EU level and acting as a city lobby before the European Commission. The priorities of Barcelona's term of office: digital inclusion, the use of emerging technologies to foster urban innovation and promote digital rights, and the use of data as a public asset.

In addition, it should be pointed out that Barcelona promoted a **fair digital transition model** in several spheres. In 2021 it presented its policies and priorities at the European level through meetings with Vice-president Vestager and Vice-president Dombrovskis and discussed the model in depth at the first policy meeting of the **Cities Coalition for Digital Rights** –which Barcelona leads with New York and Amsterdam– held in this city.

2022 was a particularly remarkable year: it was publicly announced in July that **Barcelona would be the headquarters for Giga**, an initiative of UNICEF and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU, the UN's specialist agency for information and communication technologies) that aims to connect all the world's schools to the Internet by 2030. The Spanish government, the Catalan government and Barcelona City Council agreed to host the Giga Technology Centre in Barcelona, at the Ca l'Alíer urban innovation centre. Regarding this initiative and with the aim of exploring further how to advance towards a fair digital transition, the City Council, Giga, Mobile World Capital Barcelona and the Cities Coalition for Digital Rights organised an event in December entitled the "Barcelona Conference for Digital Inclusion: Bridging Gaps for a Just Digital Transition". At the same time, Barcelona hosted the Cities Coalition for Digital Rights' annual policy meeting.

Also worth noting is the presentation in July 2022 of the **Global Observatory of Urban Artificial Intelligence**, an initiative launched by CIDOB, the cities of Barcelona, Amsterdam and London, in collaboration with UN-Habitat and within the framework of the Cities Coalition for Digital Rights, to monitor good practices and generate applied research on technological humanism and digital ethics, and to help the ethical and democratic implementation of algorithms in cities. In addition, Eurocities set up a working group of cities that has worked on establishing a European standard for the **Municipal register of algorithms** which will guide the future development of this register in Barcelona.

Deputy Mayor Laia Bonet took part in the first meeting on the Giga project at Ca l'Alíer in July 2022 with Fayaz King, UNICEF's Deputy Director for Innovation and Results on the Ground; Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Director of the Telecommunications Development Office at the ITU; Ángeles Moreno Bau, the Spanish Secretary of State for Foreign and Global Affairs; Jordi Puigneró, the Deputy President and Catalan Minister for Digital Policies and Territory, and Victòria Alsina, the Catalan Minister for Foreign Action and Open Government (photo: Barcelona City Council (photo: Barcelona City Council)).



6. Receiving delegations on the occasion of big events

Linked to line of action 2.2 of the International Relations Master Plan: Accompanying the city's international projection actions for attracting talent and opportunities, and enabling contacts, exchanges and alliances with other cities and networks to promote the economic dimension of the city and the internationalisation of its companies as an axis of local economic development.

One of the Department of International Relations' main lines of work is strengthening and promoting bilateral relations with the world's other cities. Attending to delegations that visit the city is a key part of this work, as it allows personal contact with various interlocutors while directly presenting the city's policies, good practices and experiences. In that regard, the big events hosted by Barcelona, which bring together a large number of delegations from various countries and cities, are important international showcases for the City Council's policies.

The Smart City Expo World Congress, a key annual event in the field of smart cities and a meeting place for the public and private sectors organised by Fira de Barcelona in collaboration with the City Council, is especially important given that it brings together numerous representatives of local governments interested in finding out the city's policies. Every year the Department of International Relations manages **an average of 60 delegations** visiting Barcelona for the SCEWC (except during the years when face-to-face participation was interrupted by the pandemic), organising meetings and visits with all City Council departments and at all levels, both political –including several meetings involving the Mayor and the deputy mayors with their counterparts from other cities– and technical.

In addition, events such as the **Mobile World Congress** and the **Integrated Systems Europe (ISE)** fair also bring together numerous visitors to the city, many of whom make the most of their stay to get together with political representatives and/or technical staff at the City Council and thereby learn more about the city's policies at first hand.

Deputy Mayor Laia Bonet speaking at the inaugural session of the 2022 Smart City Expo World Congress with UN Habitat senior officials and delegation leaders from the city of Chengdu, the Department of Antioquia and the metropolitan government of Santiago in Chile (photo: SCEWC).



People: Barcelona, City of Rights

To promote the defence of rights, feminism and diversity in the international action of the City Council, in order to contribute to European and global spaces and agendas that foster human rights, gender equality and the recognition of new digital and climate rights.

7. Defending democracy and rights

Linked to line of action 3.1 of the International Relations Master Plan: Consolidating the city of Barcelona as a global player with its own voice in the construction of a global scenario that seeks to resolve economic and social inequalities, and that contributes to strengthening the human rights system through the recognition and guaranteeing of new rights.

During the term of office, Barcelona took part in several initiatives with cities calling for the defence of democracy and citizen rights, initiatives often stemming from unfavourable national contexts.

Towards the end of 2019, the mayors of Prague, Bratislava, Warsaw and Budapest signed the **Pact of Free Cities** and published a joint article to explain their decision, affirming their belief in an open society based on the common values of freedom, human dignity, democracy, sustainability, equality, rule of law, social justice, tolerance and cultural diversity. The pact declaration was signed in September 2021, at the **Budapest Forum** meeting – “Building sustainable democracies”. Barcelona, represented by Deputy Mayor Laura Pérez, was one of the 23 signatory cities. Laura Pérez also spoke at this forum in the debate on “European cities as democratic strongholds?”, where she outlined some of the social policies the City Council is implementing to guarantee the right to the city and highlighted the active participation policies.

We can also highlight the active participation of the City Council and the Mayor in the **World Forum on Cities and Territories of Peace**, a space for reflection focusing on the construction of peace and defence of rights. For example, in 2021 the Mayor spoke on a panel of women mayors during the official opening of the third edition of the forum, alongside the women mayors of Bogotá and Mexico City. She also took part in the dialogue “**Preserving democracy and fundamental rights in Europe**” with the Mayor of Budapest, Gergely Karácsony, an event organised at Barcelona City Council in January 2022 by the Catalunya Europa Foundation.

The second summit of the Pact of Free Cities, where the Director of International Relations represented Barcelona, was held at the **Prague City Summit** in September 2022 and focused on assistance to Ukraine and help for Ukrainian refugees. That summit also hosted the 11th Direct Dialogue between mayors of EU capitals and the European Commission, attended by the EC Vice-President, Frans Timmermans, which focused on affordable housing and green urban restoration. Barcelona presented municipal initiatives for improving the city’s habitability, putting the emphasis on Superblocks, MÉS Barcelona, Barcelona Energia and Connectem Barcelona.

Barcelona, first European Capital of Democracy

It was publicly announced in January 2023 that Barcelona had been chosen as **European Capital of Democracy for 2023-2024**, a recognition that means the city will host various international events between October 2023 and October 2024. The central aim of the initiative's main promoter, the Innovation in Politics Institute, is to promote democratic innovation and the strengthening of democracy in Europe and on an international level. According to the assessment, Barcelona convinced the jury with projects such as Decidim, the participatory process of its Superblocks, participatory budgets and deliberative citizen assemblies..

Deputy Mayor Laura Pérez with participants at the Pact of Free Cities Mayors' Summit, held at the Budapest Forum in September 2021 (photo: Budapest City Council).



8. Social rights and feminist transformation

Linked to line of action 3.3 of the International Relations Master Plan: Supporting actions of respect and protection of human rights, gender equality and diversity in the actions of Barcelona City Council, promoting the exchange of good practices and the generation of joint strategies and policies with other cities.

Social rights and feminist transformation were among the City Council's action priorities during the term of office, and international action promoted and put the focus on them in several areas.

One of the main landmarks was the City Council's organisation of the **Eurocities Social Affairs Forum**, which in May 2022 brought together over 150 representatives of cities from all over Europe, including city councillors and the people in charge of municipal social services. The forum's programme was adapted to the situation in Ukraine, highlighting the political declaration "Caring cities: acting in solidarity with all refugees" and the deputy mayors for Social Affairs' political debate entitled "What is the capacity of cities for taking in refugees? What is the impact of the war in Ukraine on local services?".

On the city network level, Barcelona was one of the founding cities of '**CHANGE**' (City Hub and Network for Gender Equity), the only international network of cities dedicated specifically to gender equality. In November 2020, Mayor Ada Colau took part in the presentation event, a dialogue that featured the mayors of the network's co-founding cities: Los Angeles, Freetown, London, Mexico City and Tokyo. In addition, Barcelona took part in several of the network's working groups. Deputy Mayor Laura Pérez was also the Chair of **Metropolis Women** until 2022. Her term of office saw the launch of initiatives to promote gender mainstreaming, especially in the areas of mobility, safety and public space.

On a multilateral level, it is worth mentioning that the Mayor conveyed the feminist vision of the municipal government participating, together with various feminist women leaders from around the world, at a session of local governments on global feminist leadership at the 65th session of the **United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65)**, held in March 2021. In the context of exchanges on overcoming the crisis caused by the pandemic, it should be pointed out that the Mayor spoke at the session co-organised in May 2020 by UN-Habitat, UN-Women, UCLG and Metropolis on "**Women's leadership in the post-Covid-19 era. A local and regional governments' perspective**".

It is also worth remembering Barcelona's participation –represented by the Mayor– in the **first European Cities Social Summit** which, organised by the European Commission and Eurocities, brought together some 70 cities in May 2021, a day before the Social Summit attended by EU heads of State and Government in Porto. Adopting the slogan "Providing social rights and supporting an inclusive recovery", the summit was inspired by the European Commission's action plan for implementing the **European Pillar of Social Rights** and raised several of the cities' requests. More specifically, the Mayor highlighted the **five points for a more social Europe** at a high-level discussion panel with the mayors of Paris, Porto, Rotterdam, Munich, Braga and Glasgow.

In addition, it should be pointed out that social rights and feminism were also strengthened in bilateral relations with other cities. The **collaboration agreements signed with Bogotá and Medellín** in November 2021 specifically included strengthening ties in the area of social rights, and the agreement signed with **Maputo** in May 2022 involved the implementation of several projects with a feminist perspective in the areas of environment, ecological food and periurban agriculture.

Deputy mayors Laia Bonet and Laura Pérez took part in the official opening of the Eurocities Social Affairs Forum held in the City Hall's Saló de Cent on 11 May 2022, which featured an online speech by the European Commissioner for Employment and Social Rights, Nicolas Schmit (photo: Barcelona City Council).



Planet: Barcelona Green Deal

To promote a political and financial framework, European and international, favourable to the model of fair ecological transition of the Barcelona Green Deal.

9. Action against climate change and the energy crisis

Linked to line of action 4.1 of the International Relations Master Plan: Providing support to initiatives that reinforce Barcelona's commitment against climate change and the ecological transition. To provide support for political advocacy initiatives that strengthen Barcelona's commitment to climate change, and that seek the international recognition of local governments in the ecological transition.

The climate emergency has certainly been one of the central issues of municipal policy. In accordance with that premise, the City Council's international action has put the emphasis on incidence and spaces for exchange linked to the action of cities against climate change and the energy crisis. It therefore actively participated in the C40 network summits, meetings and actions, UN COP summits and initiatives relating to the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, highlighting the role that Barcelona played as 2021 **World Capital of Sustainable Food**. The **7th Milan Pact Global Forum** was organised within this framework, focusing on the link between food and the climate emergency and embarking on the Barcelona Challenge for Good Food and Climate, an initiative launched by 14 cities which included transformation commitments and indicators of urban food systems for mitigating climate change.

With regard to the **United Nations**, Barcelona was represented by Mayor Ada Colau at important meetings where the city's voice was clearly listened to. In September 2019, the Mayor took part in the official opening of the **World Summit of Cities on the Climate Emergency** held at the UN at the same time as the High-Level Political Forum convened by that body, which brought together heads of State and Government with the aim of tackling the climate emergency and keeping track of the UN's SDGs. Later, in April 2021, the Mayor spoke at a **meeting with António Guterres** organised by the UN and C40 with mayors and representatives from 14 cities which are leaders in the fight against climate change, with the aim of share those cities' actions.

Also worth noting is Barcelona's participation at **COP26 in Glasgow**. Represented by the Mayor, the city was one of the main urban voices at the meeting, where the Mayor of London took over the presidency of C40 and Ada Colau the vice-presidency and leadership in Europe. Both presented the "Cities Race to Zero" pledge at the summit's main cities board.

As regards actions connected to the **C40 network**, we should highlight Mayor Ada Colau's participation in its **World Mayor Summits**: the ones held in Copenhagen in 2019 and in Buenos Aires in 2022. As C40's Vice-President for Europe, the Mayor played an important role at the 2022 summit, notable for her media appearance with the Mayor of London to explain the summit's goals, opening speech and subsequent dialogue during the first plenary session "United for a fair and inclusive transition", and the media presentation of the cities' transformation models together with the women mayors of Paris and Bogotá.

A few months before that summit, the Mayor of Barcelona, along with the Mayor of London, headed an online meeting between several C40 mayors, the International Energy Agency (IEA) and European union leaders with the aim of tackling the rise in prices of fossil fuels and the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, where an **action plan** was presented **for combating energy poverty** and making clear the need for drastically reducing the dependence on gas by boosting renewable energies.

Mayor Ada Colau with the Mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo; the Mayor of Los Angeles, Eric Garcetti, and the Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, during the COP26 World Summit on Climate Change in November 2021 (photo: Barcelona City Council).



Peace: Barcelona, a city committed to multilateralism

To promote the reform of the multilateral system to make it more inclusive, with the possibility of active participation of cities on the international stage, and defend the interests of Barcelona and its inhabitants.

10. International and local action in support of Ukraine

Linked to line of action 5.3 of the International Relations Master Plan: Providing institutional support for the City Council's external action on human rights.

The war in Ukraine, which began in February 2022, was one of the main focuses of the City Council's international action over the year. This action culminated in **Mayor Ada Colau's trip to Kyiv with the head of Barcelona's Fire Brigade, Sebastià Massagué**, taking part in a day of activities on 9 December accompanied by the city's mayor, Vitali Klitschko, and other local dignitaries. During the visit, Colau and Klitschko –who is also the Chair of the Association of Ukrainian Cities– assessed the cooperation carried out and how to strengthen the humanitarian and cooperation corridor. It was announced at a joint press conference that Barcelona was pledging to **broaden its collaboration with two new deliveries of materials requested by Kyiv**, the first of which would be on 16 December with a shipment of logistical material to the Ukraine State Emergency Service.

During the first months of 2022, there was participation in several **advocacy meetings and initiatives** on a European level, including those convened by **Eurocities** and the **Pact of Free Cities** with the aim of **coordinating city efforts**, to share actions and condemn the Russian invasion.

At the **local level**, the Department of International Relations was tasked with **institutional coordination with the Consulate General of Ukraine** on the occasion of meetings that the City Council's representatives were holding to coordinate support. In addition, the City Council also held or took part in meetings with Barcelona's Ukrainian community and with several institutions to **coordinate the arrival of refugees** coming from Ukraine (a new webpage was launched on 12 March in order to facilitate reception and channel solidarity, and new facilities which unified social assistance to Ukrainian refugees were presented on 1 April). On the institutional front, the City Council **suspended relations with the Consulate General of the Russian Federation and exchanges with St Petersburg**, a city twinned with Barcelona since 1985.

The **bilateral relations with Kyiv** should also be stressed. On 24 March, **Mayor Ada Colau held an online meeting with the Mayor of Kyiv Vitali Klitschko** to convey Barcelona's support and wishes to strengthen the humanitarian bridge, and also to receive requests for medical and civil material from the Ukrainian capital. A few days later, **transfer to Kyiv of two Barcelona Fire Brigade fire trucks** would be announced, a transfer that took place at the start of June together with the delivery of civil protection and rescue equipment.

To increase support for Kyiv, in April Barcelona City Council's Committee for Social Rights and Culture unanimously agreed to propose it as **the 2023 La Mercè guest city**, circumstances that would lead to **Mayor Klitschko's visit to Barcelona: a collaboration agreement** was signed on 24 September between the two cities with Mayor Colau. November saw the Mayor of Kyiv's return to Barcelona, accompanied by a delegation of two deputy mayors and other municipal officials, to **take part in the Smart City Expo World Congress**, receive the "World Smart City Award Special Recognition" (for strengthening resilience and continuity of services for citizens) and hold work meetings with the City Council.

Mayor Ada Colau and the head of Barcelona's Fire Brigade, Sebastià Massagué, accompanied by the Mayor of Kyiv during their visit to this city in December 2022 (photo: Barcelona City Council).



D Agreements signed by Barcelona with other cities

Europe

Collaboration agreement with Bologna

The Mayor of Barcelona, Ada Colau, and the Mayor of Bologna, Matteo Lepore, signed a new agreement on 1 April 2022 to strengthen the existing collaboration between the two cities in an act held in Barcelona's City Hall. The three-year agreement expresses an undertaking to share priority policies and projects and to work jointly in areas as diverse as digital, science and research policies, sustainable mobility, urban innovation, culture, promoting digital inclusion and the ethical use of AI, among others. The understanding also puts special emphasis on promoting digital policies from both cities' computer research centres.

Memorandum of understanding with Bologna on digital twins

The Mayor of Barcelona, Ada Colau, and the Mayor of Bologna, Matteo Lepore, signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Barcelona on 8 July 2022 with two of the three most powerful supercomputers in Europe, the BSC-CNS and the CINECA Interuniversity Consortium and the University of Bologna, to develop an evidence-based public policies model through the construction and development of urban digital twins.

Collaboration agreement with Kyiv

On 24 September 2022, the Mayor of Barcelona, Ada Colau, and the Mayor of Kyiv, Vitali Klitschko, signed a three-year collaboration agreement in Barcelona that would enable the strengthening of ties between the two cities in the areas of technology, health, the arts and culture, tourism, transport, city management and public safety. Mayor Klitschko visited Barcelona for the La Mercè festivities, as the Ukrainian capital will be the 2023 La Mercè's guest city.

Collaboration agreement with Lyon

On 28 March 2023, Barcelona and Lyon signed a collaboration framework agreement that includes several areas: city adaptation to climate change and ecological transition; urban planning, mobility and accessibility; culture; sustainable tourism; social justice and inclusion; defence of human rights; sustainable food; global health; citizen governance and participation and public safety

America

Collaboration agreement with Bogotá

This was signed by respective cities' mayors, Ada Colau and Claudia López, on 8 November 2021. The goal: to deepen the already existing ties in areas such as social rights, gender justice, education and culture, and to add others such as urban planning, social economy and tourism. The signing ceremony was attended by the deputy mayors Laia Bonet and Laura Pérez.

Collaboration agreement with Medellín

This agreement was signed in Barcelona on 19 November 2021, making the most of the presence of Medellín's mayor, Daniel Quintero, in the city. The agreement gives continuity to cooperation programmes started years ago in the areas of culture and social rights and incorporated the new 2030 Urban Agenda. It includes areas such as Barcelona City Council's participation in institutional training to promote the right to the city and environmental justice, guarantee the defence of human rights, equal opportunities and access to basic public services.

Collaboration protocols with Mexico City and Oaxaca

Collaboration protocols relating to urban transformation with Mexico City (24 September 2022) and Oaxaca (28 September 2022) were signed during Deputy Mayor Janet Sanz's institutional trip to Mexico. An agreement was reached with Mexico City's Secretariat for Environment to create a Green Urban Infrastructure and Urban Regeneration Policy Observatory as a working space for sharing urban transformation and innovation experiences. In the case of Oaxaca, progress in the areas of waste management, protecting local commerce and urban heritage conservation, among other things, will be shared.

Asia

Collaboration agreement with Kyoto Prefecture

This was signed online on 11 November 2021. It includes collaboration in the following areas: economic and social development, start-ups (entrepreneurial and talent), smart city, technological innovation and open data, tourism, creative and cultural industries, and mutual support for business and institutional missions.

Twinning agreement with Shenzhen

The Mayor of Barcelona, Ada Colau, and the Mayor of Shenzhen, Qin Weizhong, signed this four-year agreement on 22 November 2021, which promotes collaboration in areas such as trade, investments, biotechnology, information technologies and renewable energies. The signing ceremony was held online, with Deputy Mayor Laia Bonet, the Spanish Consul in Guangzhou, Eduardo Aznar, Shenzhen's Director-General of International Relations, Cao Saixian, the Chinese Consul General in Barcelona, Zhu Jiangyang, and the City Commissioner for Digital Innovation Michael Donaldson taking part.

Africa

Collaboration agreement with Maputo

On 31 May 2022, Barcelona and Maputo renewed their collaboration agreement for the period 2022-2025, the fourth concluded by the two cities. The Fourth Deputy Mayor, Laura Pérez, travelled to Maputo to revalidate the agreement and launch various projects from a feminist perspective in the areas of environment, ecological food and periurban agriculture. The agreement puts the emphasis on environmental protection, ecological food and periurban agriculture.

E International declarations adopted by Barcelona

Declarations, joint communiques, calls, manifestos and similar documents.

2019

- “Cities alarmed at European protection in tourist rentals” manifesto, sent to the European Union in June 2019 to demand tougher legal measures requiring responsibility from holiday rental platforms. Signed by Amsterdam, Barcelona, Berlin, Bordeaux, Brussels, Krakow, Munich, Paris, Valencia and Vienna.
<https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/premsa/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/manifestTurismeUE.pdf>
- Santiago de los Caballeros Declaration “City, Culture and 2030 Agenda”, approved at the annual meeting of the Ibero-American Urban Strategic Development Centre (CIDEU) held in that Dominican Republic city from 17 to 19 July 2019.
https://media-edg.barcelona.cat/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/25145856/20190719_Declaraci%C3%B3_final_CulturaCiutat.pdf
- Voluntary Local Review Declaration, a declaration of commitment to the SDGs promoted by New York and signed by Barcelona in September 2019.
<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/international/programs/voluntary-local-review-declaration.page>

2020

- “Join Boost Sustain” Declaration for the digital transformation of cities, signed at the 2020 Cities Forum, “Together we shape a sustainable urban future”, organised by the European Commission and the city of Porto, and held in Porto on 30 and 31 January 2020.
<http://www.living-in.eu/declaration>
- “Cities for All: Global Compact on Inclusive and Accessible Cities”, signed during the tenth World Urban Forum held in Abu Dhabi from 8 to 13 February 2020.
<https://www.cities4all.org/compact/>

- The European Green Deal. Delivering results for citizens with Europe's cities. Eurocities Declaration. February 2020.
<https://eurocities.eu/latest/the-european-green-deal-delivering-results-for-citizens-with-europes-cities/>
- Eurocities reaction to the Covid-19 emergency. Eurocities declaration. March 2020.
<https://eurocities.eu/latest/eurocities-reaction-to-the-covid-19-emergency/>
- People-centred Artificial Intelligence (AI) in cities. Eurocities declaration. March 2020.
<https://eurocities.eu/latest/people-centred-artificial-intelligence-ai-in-cities/>
- C40 declaration of principles on the Covid-19 economic recovery, adopted at the first Global Mayors COVID-19 Recovery Task Force online meeting and published on 7 May 2020.
https://www.c40.org/press_releases/taskforce-principles
- "Women's appeal for human security, public health, peace and sustainable development", signed on 24 May to mark International Women's Day for Peace and Disarmament, an initiative led by Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), Women Legislators' Lobby (WILL) and World Future Council (WFC).
<http://www.pnnd.org/article/womens-appeal-human-security-public-health-peace-and-sustainable-development>
- "A call to rethink our Metropolitan spaces", impulsada per la presidència de Metropolis per tal de crear espais metropolitans més inclusius, democràtics, sostenibles i menys desiguals. Maig de 2020.
<https://www.metropolis.org/join-call-rethink-our-metropolitan-spaces>
- EU recovery powered by cities. Eurocities declaration. June 2020.
<https://eurocities.eu/latest/covid-19-recovery-mayors-call-for-a-new-pact-between-the-eu-and-cities/>
- The fifth generation of telecommunications system (5G) deployment in cities. Eurocities declaration. June 2020.
<https://eurocities.eu/latest/the-fifth-generation-of-telecommunications-system-5g-deployment-in-cities/>
- The Digital Services Act. Eurocities declaration. September 2020.
<https://eurocities.eu/latest/making-digital-opportunities-work-for-people-and-the-public-good/>
- A stronger social Europe powered by inclusive cities. Eurocities declaration. September 2020.
<https://eurocities.eu/latest/a-stronger-social-europe-powered-by-inclusive-cities/>
- 2020 Rome Charter for the right to Culture, signed during the 2020 Rome Charter Conference held from 1 to 3 October 2020, an initiative led by Roma Capitale and the UCLG Culture Committee.
<https://www.2020romecharter.org/charter/>

- “Communiqué from the Urban 20 (U20)”, on the occasion of the third U20 Mayors Summit organised by Riyadh on 2 October 2020.
https://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/u20_2020_communique_final.pdf
- EU climate leadership: 60% emission reduction by 2030. Eurocities declaration. November 2020.
<https://eurocities.eu/latest/eu-climate-leadership-60-emission-reduction-by-2030/>

2021

- “8M: Cities united by gender equality”, a joint article published on 8 March by the mayors of the co-founding cities of CHANGE (City Hub and Network for Gender Equity) – Barcelona, Mexico City, Freetown, London, Los Angeles and Tokyo.
<https://www.lavanguardia.com/local/barcelona/20210308/6265427/8m-ciudades-unidas-equidad-genero.html>
- C40 “Urban Nature Declaration”, published in July 2021.
https://www.c40.org/press_releases/urban-nature-declaration
- “Pledge to make COP26 Launchpad for Decade of Climate Action, delivering Jobs, Skills, Investments, Social Equity and to Tackle Inequality”, call for action linked to a C40 webinar on 22 July 2021.
https://www.c40.org/press_releases/mayors-unions-cop26
- “Tokyo Declaration on Sustainable Recovery”, presented during the Sustainable Recovery Tokyo Forum held in August 2021.
https://www.seisakukikaku.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/en/diplomacy/2022/01/images/EN_Tokyo_Declaration_on_Sustainable_Recovery.pdf
- U20 2021 Communiqué, “Urban 20 calls on G20 to empower cities to ensure a green and just recovery”, adopted on the occasion of the Fourth Urban 20 Summit, held on 3 September 2021 and organised by Rome and Milan.
<https://www.urban20.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/U20-2021-Communique-Final.pdf>
- Pact of Free Cities declaration, signed at the Budapest Forum held in September, which Deputy Mayor Laura Pérez took part in.
- “The Barcelona Challenge for Good Food and Climate”, presented at the 7th Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Global Forum, held in Barcelona from 19 to 21 October 2021.
<https://thebcnchallenge.org/>
- Barcelona Declaration on Time Policies, presented at the conclusion of Time Use Week 2021, held in Barcelona from 25 to 31 October.
<https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/premsa/2021/10/29/declaracio-de-barcelona-en-politiques-del-temps-un-acord-mundial-pioner-per-garantir-el-dret-al-temps-a-la-ciutadania/>

2022

- Letter of support from Eurocities mayors to Ukraine's cities, dated 18 February.
<https://eurocities.eu/latest/in-solidarity-with-ukraine/>
- Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) declaration, "European local and regional governments strongly support their peers in Ukraine", of 24 February.
<https://www.lps.lv/en/news/europe/7165-european-local-and-regional-governments-strongly-support-their-peers-in-ukraine>
- Declaration of the Mayors of the Pact of Free Cities condemning the attack and invasion by the Russian army, of 25 February.
https://www.zagreb.hr/UserDocsImages/fotogalerija/gradske%20vijesti/POFC%20Ukraine%20declaration_v4.pdf
- UCLG Statement on the attack on Ukraine, agreed during the meeting of the network's presidency at its Annual Retreat held in Barcelona from 21 to 25 February.
<https://www.uclg.org/es/media/noticias/declaracion-de-cglu-sobre-el-ataque-en-ucrania>
- Eurocities declaration in solidarity with Ukraine in letter format, of 4 March, addressed to European authorities.
- Pact of Free Cities letter of 4 March to Ursula von der Leyen, the President of the European Commission, with the aim of requesting the activation of European funding to provide support for assisting refugees from Ukraine.
- "Urgent call from Mariupol", signed on 15 March, following an online meeting of European cities with the Deputy Mayor of Mariupol, Sergiy Olov, held on 14 March.
<https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/premsa/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Mariupol-Call-15.03.2022-final.pdf>
- "Caring Cities: Acting in solidarity with all refugees", political declaration presented at the opening of the Eurocities Social Forum held in Barcelona from 11 to 13 May.
https://eurocities.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Eurocities-Statement-on-Caring-cities-and-solidarity-with-all-refugees_final.pdf
- "Global Declaration of Mayors for Democracy", presented on 28 June during the World Urban Forum in Katowice, Poland, and promoted by the Pact of Free Cities, the Global Parliament of Mayors and GMF Cities.
<https://globalparliamentofmayors.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Global-Declaration-of-Mayors-for-Democracy.-1.pdf>
- "Cities at the limit. Bogotá Call for Action", approved at the Metropolis Board of Directors meeting held in Bogotá in July.
https://ajbcn-decidim-barcelona-organizations.s3.amazonaws.com/decidim-bcn-organizations/uploads/decidim/attachment/file/6892/Ciudades_al_l%C3%ADmite._La_Llamada_a_la_Acci%C3%B3n_de_Bogot%C3%A1.pdf
- C40 communiqué on the European Commission's Winter Emergency Plan, published on 20 July coinciding with the European Commission's publication of this plan.
<https://www.c40.org/news/eu-winter-plan/>

- Communiqué from the Urban 20 Summit of Mayors, published on 31 August during this meeting in Jakarta.
<https://www.urban20.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/U20-2022-COMMUNIQUE-280822.pdf>
- “Pact for the Future of Humanity” political declaration, approved during the 7th UCLG World Congress held in Daejeon from 10 to 14 October.
<https://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/pactoparaelfuturodecglu.pdf>
- Joint declaration from six European capitals promoted by Paris City Council calling on the European Commission for more measures against atmospheric pollution, published in Le Monde on 17 October and in Barcelona on 18 October.
https://www.lemonde.fr/idees/article/2022/10/17/nos-villes-doivent-penser-leur-avenir-sans-petrole_6146148_3232.html
https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/premsa/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/dec_euro7_cat.pdf
- Communiqué from the C40 World Summit of Mayors, published on 20 October in the framework of this meeting held in Buenos Aires.
<https://www.c40.org/news/50-million-green-jobs-by-2030/>
- “Call from Nantes” on the occasion of the first “Villes et Santé mentale” international colloquium, held in Nantes on 2 December.
<https://www.villes-et-sante-mentale.com/appel-de-nantes/>
- Declarations issued in December by Eurocities, UCLG and Pact of Free Cities in support of the Mayor of Istanbul, Ekrem İmamoğlu and against the judicial persecution he has been subjected to in his country. The declarations by Eurocities and the Pact of Free Cities were published respectively on 14 December 2022 and 20 January 2023.
<https://eurocities.eu/latest/in-support-of-ekrem-imamoglu-mayor-of-istanbul/>
<https://www.pactoffreecities.com/articles/joint-statement-in-solidarity-with-ekrem-imamoglu-mayor-of-istanbul>

2023

- Call for peace and solidarity on the occasion of the first anniversary of the war in Ukraine, approved at the UCLG Annual Retreat held in Barcelona from 20 to 24 February.
<https://powerofwe.uclg.org/new/uclg-united-in-call-for-peace-and-solidarity-on-the-one-year-anniversary-of-the-war-against-ukraine/>
- Call for solidarity with Turkey and Syria in the wake of the earthquakes there, approved within framework of the UCLG Annual Retreat held in Barcelona from 20 to 24 February.
<https://powerofwe.uclg.org/new/uclgs-call-for-solidarity-about-earthquakes-affecting-turkiye-and-syria/>
- “Barcelona declaration on the preservation and promotion of iconic commercial establishments”, signed on the occasion of the 1st International Conference on Iconic Retail Shops in European Cities, held in Barcelona on 7 March 2023.
https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/premsa/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/230306_Declaracio-de-Barcelona-emblematics.pdf

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- “For a new public space model”, an agreement adopted during the first Barcelona International Superblock Conference, signed on 24 March by representatives of Paris, London, Amsterdam, Berlin, Milan, Rotterdam, Brussels, Ljubljana, Ghent, Łódź, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Valencia and Barcelona.
https://ajuntament.barcelona.cat/premsa/wpcontent/uploads/2023/03/superblock_cat.pdf
 - “Brussels declaration for connecting and empowering cities. Urban solutions to global challenges”, adopted during the 2023 Brussels Urban Summit held from 12 to 15 June.
<https://www.urbansummit.brussels/Brussels%20Statement%20on%20empowering%20cities%20-%20June%202023%20-%20Brussels%20Urban%20Summit.pdf>
 - “Call for respect for human rights”, approved by the UCLG Executive Bureau during the 2023 Brussels Urban Summit held from 12 to 15 June.
<https://powerofwe.uclg.org/es/new/llamamiento-al-respeto-de-los-derechos-humanos/>