



2ND UCLG CULTURE SUMMIT
COMMITMENTS AND ACTIONS FOR
CULTURE IN SUSTAINABLE CITIES
JEJU (REPUBLIC OF KOREA)
10-13 MAY 2017

CLOSING ADDRESS
12 MAY 2017

MR. **MPHO PARKS TAU** IS THE PRESIDENT OF
UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (UCLG)





Dear friends and colleagues,

I would like to begin by expressing my heartfelt thanks to the Governor of the Special Self-Governing Province of Jeju, the host of this second UCLG Culture Summit and President of UCLG ASPAC. Thanks for making us feel at home and providing an excellent environment for our work.

I would particularly like to thank UCLG-ASPAC for its involvement in the preparations of the Summit, as well as for the trust put in me by the Asian section during the first few months of my Presidency. Your warm welcome and support for making UCLG a resilient, open and diverse organization are invaluable. Every part of our network is vital if UCLG is to put local government at the heart of a changing world, facilitate collaborative local governance and ensure organizational collaboration and renewal.

Last but not least, thanks to all of you, our members and partners, who have participated in the sessions and debates of this Summit. It is your inputs that have made this such a successful and enriching event.

»» WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT THRIVING CITIES ARE THOSE THAT EMBRACE DIVERSITY AND FOSTER COHESION

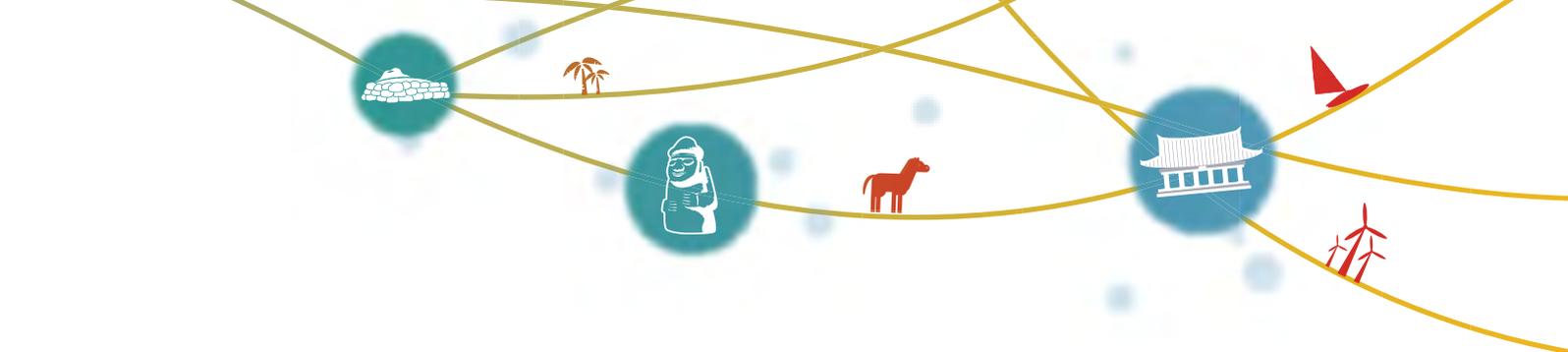
Having been in Nairobi at the first Governing Council of UN Habitat after Habitat III, I have been able to see first hand the visibility that UCLG and the cause of local and regional government has. I have also been able to assess the great possibilities of partnerships with all the different constituencies.

As the experiences in your towns, cities and regions show, our task is vast and not single constituency or area of work can contribute to a resilient sustainable society.

On the topic that brings us together today, it is not enough to merely state that culture lies at the core of sustainable development. We must design more attractive, enabling cities, accessible to all. We must recognize that thriving cities are those that embrace diversity and foster cohesion. We must decentralize access to culture and creativity, making it universal. We must provide opportunities for everyone's memories and heritage to be recognised in the stories of our cities. We must strive for people-centred cities that allow residents to co-create the city they want.

These are values and principles that lie at the core of UCLG's global agenda. At our Congress last October, we adopted the Bogotá Commitment, which lay out our aspirations for the future of our communities, cities and territories for the coming years. This vision recognizes culture as "a vital element of citizenship, integration and co-existence". It commits us to promote active cultural policies to guarantee the right to culture for all. After all, without culture – the fourth pillar of sustainable development – the economic, environmental and social pillars will fall.

That's why culture must be at the core of our work to localize global agendas on sustainable development. Over the last three days, you have shared experiences, ideas and gathered energies that show how culture is part of what makes cities more sustainable and worth



living in. We are proud of having made a substantial contribution to this debate, through the Agenda 21 for culture and Culture 21 Actions. We commit to continuing this work along with our members and partners in all continents.

It is inspiring to see the engagement of cities from Asia and the Pacific, and we look forward to strengthening collaboration in the field of culture with local and regional governments in this region.

»» WE MUST STRIVE FOR PEOPLE-CENTRED CITIES THAT ALLOW RESIDENTS TO CO-CREATE THE CITY THEY WANT

As you know, UCLG has been at the forefront of international work on the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals and in making sure that the New Urban Agenda actively listens to the voice of cities. Now it is time to implement those agendas, to learn from one another, and to visualise how global sustainable development needs action at the local level. We need a broad network of alliances to do this, involving local governments, citizens, private organisations, international agencies, and building on the expertise of each. Many of you have been part of our work for many years, and we invite new friends to join us building our strategy toward 2019 and in what I would like to describe as a true Global UCLG Localization Hub which will bring all our activities and partners together rallying around SDGs and the enabling framework of the New Urban Agenda.





»» CULTURE LIES AT THE CORE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Putting culture at the heart of sustainable development won't be easy, and it won't be done overnight. But what process could be more motivating and inspirational for our network over the coming years? And what process could be closer to the spirit of local diversity and self-government that we seek to defend in all of our work? I know your work will continue after today, and I look forward to us gathering together again to share our progress in 2019 at the 3rd UCLG Culture Summit.

Until then, I wish us all lot of exchange work and collaboration.



