

UCLG-MEWA FORUM ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

CONCEPT NOTE

United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section (UCLG-MEWA), which aims to lead the united voice of its members for their policies on social inclusion, participatory democracy and human rights; has been continuing its works by promoting political negotiation, experience sharing and peer-to-peer learning among municipalities at global level. Within this framework, **UCLG-MEWA** will organize its **Executive Bureau and Council Joint Meeting** and the **UCLG-MEWA Forum on Local Governments and Social Inclusion** on **18-19 October, 2017**, in Istanbul under the auspices of Sancaktepe Municipality.

As well as a right based approach with a sense of a sustainable development, social integration is also required to make sure that all segments of society have access to welfare. As the main components of this necessity, social inclusion policies must be at the center of the political agendas of local governments in this century, which bears a great importance for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda after the HABITAT III process and for the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals in our cities and world we live in.

The Sustainable Development Goals, which are built on the success of the Millennium Development Goals and adopted in 2015, aim to eradicate all forms of poverty and inequality until 2030; to increase the access of vulnerable people to basic resources and services; and to support communities affected by conflict and disaster.

Within the context of social protection system that is presented as a solution to the changing social structure, differing social needs, long-term unemployment; social inclusion is not only a response to poverty and social exclusion but also a key actor in forming an inclusive society and increasing the access capacity of everyone to equal opportunities and life standards, by identifying the concept of social exclusion and inclusive policies.

In this regard, **UCLG-MEWA Forum on Local Governments and Social Inclusion** will serve as a platform for discussing global social inclusion policies at local level, in the process of fighting against social exclusion and the implementing relevant policies. The Forum therefore aims to promote experience sharing among local and regional authorities, entrepreneurs and civil society organizations that play a role in social inclusion programs; to enable a discussion on a more effective cooperation among local authorities, public institutions and civil society, and to offer suggestions accordingly.

UCLG-MEWA Forum on Local Governments and Social Inclusion will be held under the main theme “Social Inclusion and Local Governments in Localization of Global Agenda” and will focus on 3 thematic areas:

- Fighting Poverty and Social Exclusion: Right Based Development
- Social Policy Instruments for Women’s Social Integration
- Social Adaptation and Acceptance Process of Vulnerable Groups: Trends, Needs

Please note that the accommodation costs will be covered for **maximum 2 persons** from each municipality/organization. We would appreciate it if you can inform us about your participation by **29 September 2017, Friday**, the latest.

Registration: For registration, please fill in the participation form [here](#).

Accommodation and Venue: Crowne Plaza Istanbul Asia (<http://www.cpistanbulasia.com>)