

UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
MIDDLE EAST AND WEST ASIA SECTION
(UCLG-MEWA)

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES
(19 April 2016 – 09 July 2019 PERIOD)

FOREWORD





Fatma ŞAHİN

Mayor of Gaziantep
2016-2019 Term President

Distinguished members,

At the UCLG-MEWA Congress, which was hosted by Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality on April 19, 2016, I was elected to the presidency of our organization with the approval of our members. During this past three years, we have been involved in a number of activities to protect the values and objectives of local governments, both in the MEWA region and at the global level.

As the Mayor of Gaziantep, we carry out our works with the vision of making Gaziantep a city which is known in the world as a model with its historical and cultural heritage and contemporary works, and with a high quality of life at the level of sustainable development. We have accomplished many works and studies in this reporting period in order to reach the ideal of a city with high quality of life that we desire for Gaziantep, a city bearing many characteristics of the MEWA Region, and therefore has a high level of capacity for the regional representation. We have been instrumental in the establishment of partnerships for the efficient provision of municipal services in the geography both receiving and sending migration. With the good practices from our members, we have provided an important platform for the advancement of the works in our region.

We have prepared UCLG-MEWA Strategic Plan 2018-2020 in order to work more systematically and to respond to the needs of our region. In addition to this, we have tried to lead the activities in our region conducted for the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals. Based on the past experience of our organization, we have made significant efforts to implement global development agendas in MEWA cities. We increased our cooperation with international organizations and strengthened our relations with our members. In this period, we also have developed many declarations as reference documents. We have prepared the UCLG-MEWA Intermediary Cities Declaration for the mobilization of intermediary cities, a new concept in our region. Another document was the UCLG-MEWA Gender Equality Committee's Commitment to Localization of Sustainable Development Goal 5, aimed at achieving gender equality at the local level. In this period that our organization has entered a new era, I will continue to serve in different levels of management of both UCLG World Organization and UCLG-MEWA. I would like to express my gratitude to the UCLG-MEWA Secretariat and to the staff of Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality, my colleagues worked with me for the cities in our region during my presidency.

A manageable change can offer you a good future. Let's manage the change together with UCLG-MEWA. With these thoughts and feelings, I would like to express my pleasure to share our three-year report of activities and make it available for you. Wishing you a pleasant reading.

PREFACE





Mehmet DUMAN

Secretary General

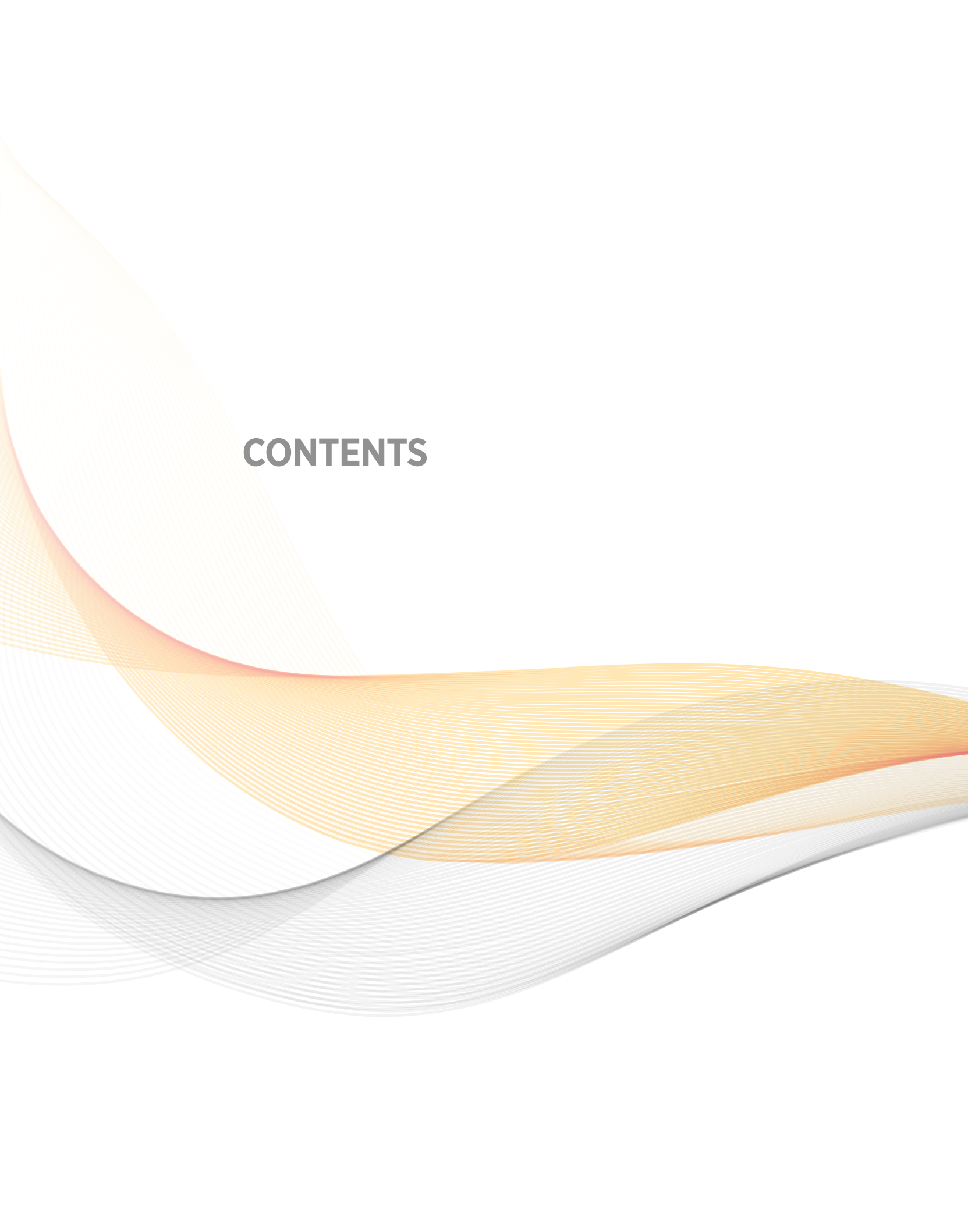
Dear Friends of Local Government,

After the UCLG-MEWA Congress held in Gaziantep on 19 April 2016, we left behind three years. During this period, Fatma Şahin, Mayor of Gaziantep, held the Presidency of our organization. In this three-year period, we have taken many important initiatives to strengthen local governments, especially in our region and around the world. Considering this; we are pleased to share with you our three-year report covering the period between the 5th UCLG-MEWA Congress we held in Gaziantep on 19 April 2016 and the 6th UCLG-MEWA Congress to be organized in Amman on 9 July 2019.

During the reporting period, we took important steps to strengthen our membership base and to improve our relations with the Sections and members. We have established different collaborations with the United Nations and international organizations. We have participated in and contributed to many events such as the 40th Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee Meeting, the HABITAT III process, the UN Local Governments Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA), the UN High-level Political Forum and the UN Public Services Forum. We encouraged our members to participate in such platforms. We have endeavored to be more visible in policy-making mechanisms in order to play an active role in the formulation of local and regional policies. Within this context, we effectively continued to take part in the Policy Forum on Development (PFD) meetings organized by the European Commission, and have organized several sessions under this forum. Coming together with Arab Towns Organization, Asian Mayors Forum, Union of Municipalities of Turkey, Union of Turkish World Municipalities, and many other regional partners, we carried out several activities to move our local governments further.

In addition to this, we have come together with different stakeholders in line with the priorities of our region, especially on the issues related to migration and refugees, contributed to the result reports and outcomes of numerous international meetings with aim of finding common solutions to the problems.

We are also pleased to inform you that we have successfully held the meetings of the governing bodies of our organization during this reporting period. Moreover, our committees made significant progress. Each committee prepared policy papers to adopt a systematic working model. On the other hand, we went through an efficient process in line with our vision of being a source of information about local governments in our region, where we accelerated our press and publication efforts in order to increase our organizational visibility. Now with the UCLG-MEWA Report of Activities for 2016-2019, we invite you to be a witness of this process.



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I. GENERAL INFORMATION

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In this part; general information is presented about the foundation of United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section (UCLG-MEWA), its position is in the world and in its region, touching upon its aims, duties, mission, vision and its structure.





A- FOUNDING OF UCLG-MEWA

International Union of Local Authorities, Section for the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East Region (IULA-EMME), a regional autonomous section, affiliated to International Union of Local Authorities (IULA) whose center is located in the Hague, Netherlands; was founded in Istanbul with the Republic of Turkey Council of Ministers' decision dated 11 September 1997 and numbered 87/12105, based on the 3335 numbered Law on the Establishment of International Organizations. However, International Union of Local Authorities (IULA), founded in 1913 in the Hague, FMCU-UTO (Federation Mondiale de Cites Unies, United Town Organization) founded in 1957 and World Association of the Major Metropolises (ME- TROPOLIS) founded in 1985 gathered and took the decision of unification in the Joint Congress held in Paris, France on 5th of May 2004, changing their name as "United Cities and Local Governments" and transferring their headquarters to Barcelona, Spain. The regional section established in Istanbul that continues its activities under the name of "International Union of Local Authorities, Section for the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East Region (IULA-EMME)" held its congress in parallel to the UCLG World Organization in Paris, where the decision of unification with the UCLG World Organization and changing its name as **"United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section (UCLG-MEWA)"** was formally taken on 5th of May, 2004. For this reason, the regional section whose name was changed as **"United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section (UCLG-MEWA)"** since 5th May, 2004 as a follow-up of International Union of Local Authorities Section for the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East Region (IULA-EMME) has been maintaining its activities with its autonomous structure.



B- UCLG-MEWA AS AN ORGANIZATION

United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section is a non-profit international organization engaged in achieving strong, effective and democratic local government, in consideration of;

- » The United Nations (UN) Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and particularly the principle recognized in Article 21, that the will of the people is the basis of the authority of government;
- » Principles of European Charter of Local Self Government;
- » The United Towns Charter adopted by UTO in 1957;
- » The IULA Worldwide Declaration of Local Self-Government, adopted by IULA in 1985 and amended in 1993, and ratified by the UTO in 1994;
- » Final Declaration of the World Assembly of Cities and Local Authorities adopted in Istanbul in 1996;
- » The Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, Agenda 21 and the Political Declaration of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and the Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals; throughout the world, particularly in countries of the MEWA region, in parallel with the UCLG World Organization, by means of fulfilling its duties in line with the designated goals.

1- Goals

The goals designated in order to develop local democracy and achieve a strong and effective local government in the MEWA Region are as follows;

- a- To encourage cooperation among the members,
- b- To secure the strong political representation of local governments in the international arena, particularly the United Nations and its agencies,
- c- To be a source of information, training, information sharing, and capacity building in order to support the establishment and strengthening of local governments and their national associations around the world and across the region,
- d- To provide economic, socio-cultural, environmental and professional development based on the principles of good governance, sustainability, and social inclusion; and to be a strong democratic organization that reflects the composition and the functionality of the differences of governance in local areas,
- e- To promote gender equality and to fight against all kinds of discrimination,
- f- To promote decentralization and international cooperation among local governments and their associations,
- g- To implement sister city practices and partnerships, as tools to ensure friendship and mutual learning among communities,
- h- To make policies in the framework of the mission, values, and goals of the UCLG World Organization, in order to strengthen local governments and local democracy and to choose the appropriate tools to apply these policies.



2- Tasks

In line with these goals, UCLG-MEWA shall undertake the following tasks and initiatives to enable a strong, effective and democratic local government as may be deemed appropriate and necessary, in order to achieve its mission:

- i- Engages actively in lobbying and advocacy works in the international arena to promote the status of local governments. Enhances the status and role of local governments at the international stage and influences the process of making political decisions.
- j- Develops policies and positions on issues of key interest and importance to local governments. Collaborates actively with the United Nations (UN) and its agencies to materialize the aforementioned policies.
- k- Develops action programs among local governments and associations of local governments through international cooperation and initiatives, seeks funding and creates financial tools through decentralized cooperation/development projects.



- l-** Builds an international platform of exchanges and partnerships in order to strengthen the local governments and the capacities of associations of local governments.
- m-** Becomes a major world source of information on international solidarity and the exchange of know-how by supporting the establishment of strong networks among local government members and developing services and global products to meet demands.
- n-** Disseminates information among its members through publications, seminars and new information technologies, on the situation and the evolution of local government all over the world.
- o-** Organizes congresses, other events, and activities, and increases the number of members, in order to reinforce the political effectiveness, recognition and financial autonomy of the Section.



C- MISSION OF UCLG-MEWA

To be the united voice and world advocate of democratic local self-government, promoting its values, objectives, and interests, through cooperation among local governments and within the wider international community.



GENERAL INFORMATION

D- VISION OF UCLG-MEWA

To strengthen the role of local and regional governments; to mobilize local actions in favor of development, enhancing the efficiency and strength of the local and regional governments along with their national associations and to support innovations for the sake of local governance.



E- MEMBERSHIP

1- UCLG-MEWA Membership Categories

UCLG-MEWA members consist of the following categories; Local Government Members, Country Representatives, International Organization Members, Associate Members, Honorary Members, and others.

2- Who can be a member of UCLG-MEWA?

In general, Membership of UCLG-MEWA is open to legal entities and organizations, however; it is also open to real persons. Accordingly, local governments, local government associations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), training centers, academic institutions, researchers, ministries and its affiliated institutions, government agencies, international organizations, foundations, and companies can be a member of UCLG-MEWA. As mentioned above, individuals can also be a member of UCLG-MEWA. More information about membership is available on UCLG-MEWA website www.uclg-mewa.org.



F- UCLG-MEWA REGION AND ITS HEADQUARTERS

1- Geographical Region of UCLG-MEWA

Headquartered in Barcelona, the World Organization of United Cities and Local Governments, which has been carrying out its works for about more than one hundred years to strengthen local democracy and local governments, is an organization that can be regarded as the United Nations of the local governments in worldwide. UCLG has nine sections in the world and has thousands of members from local governments and their associations.

These sections are as follows:

- a-** United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA),
- b-** United Cities and Local Governments - Asia Pacific (UCLG-ASPAC),
- c-** United Cities and Local Governments -Eurasia (UCLG-EURASIA),
- d-** Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR),
- e-** UCLG Forum of Regions (UCLG Regions),
- f-** World Association of the Major Metropolises (METROPOLIS),
- g-** North American Section of UCLG (NORAM),
- h-** Latin American Coordination of Local Authorities (CORDIAL),
- i-** United Cities and Local Governments-Middle East and West Asia Section (UCLG-MEWA).

*The parts in parentheses are the abbreviations of the relevant Sections.

As one of the 9 Section of the World Organization, United Cities and Local Governments – Middle East and West Asia Section, which includes various local

governments and local government associations along with several other legal entities, represents the local governments in a total of 15 countries. out its works and activities in twenty countries. These countries are; Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen, in alphabetical order. As per its Constitution, UCLG-MEWA may, in addition to these countries, adopt memberships from and operate in other countries.

2- UCLG-MEWA Headquarters

UCLG-MEWA headquarters is the historical Talatpaşa Mansion, located in Sultanahmet district of Fatih, Istanbul on Yerebatan Street, Number 2. The exact year when Talatpaşa Mansion was built remains unknown, but it is presumed to have been built during the late 1890s.

Talatpaşa Mansion was the official residence of Talat Paşa; who had been a member of parliament, minister of internal affairs and grand vizier in the Ottoman Period. The building whose restoration was done by architect Cengiz Bektaş in 1987 has since been used as the administrative center of UCLG-MEWA.

Ground plan of the stone building is L-shaped. The long part of the “L” is a one-floor structure, and it contains a conference hall with a capacity of 50 persons and the dining hall. A short part of the “L” is a three-floor structure. The ground floor contains the doorway, waiting room, telephone operator’s room, and two working offices, the first floor contains the doorway, four working offices and a meeting hall for 20 persons. Likewise, the second floor has a doorway, four working offices and a meeting hall for 20 persons. Third and the highest floor contains a doorway, a Presidential office, a meeting room for 10 persons and a resting room.

There is a winter garden behind the building with a pergola which is available for sixty people for meetings and working sessions



GENERAL INFORMATION

G- ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF UCLG-MEWA

1- UCLG-MEWA Governing Bodies

As per the article 32 of the UCLG-MEWA Organization, UCLG-MEWA bodies are by General Assembly, Council, Executive Bureau, President and Co-presidents (Presidency), Treasurer, Ombudsman, and Secretary General.

UCLG-MEWA General Assembly is the highest level of UCLG-MEWA governing bodies. It consists of all members of UCLG-MEWA.

UCLG-MEWA Council is the main policy-making body of UCLG-MEWA. It takes decisions on the basic policies of UCLG-MEWA and ensures the implementation of general policies determined by the General Assembly. **UCLG-MEWA Council** members are composed of the President, Co-Presidents, Treasurer, Ombudsman, maximum 99 members elected out of the General Assembly for a period between two ordinary meetings of the General Assembly, and the Secretary General (without voting right).

UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau; is responsible for carrying out the decisions and proposals of UCLG-MEWA Council and for other duties delegated to it by UCLG-MEWA Council. It is in charge of UCLG-MEWA's administrative and financial management. The Executive Bureau of UCLG-MEWA is composed of the following members: the President, the Co-Presidents, the Treasurer, Ombudsman, Local government members, maximum of 33 local government members elected out of the council for a period between two ordinary sessions of the General Assembly, Secretary General (without a voting right) and the designed representatives of international/regional local government organizations (without a voting right).

UCLG-MEWA President is the principal representative of UCLG-MEWA and chairs the meetings of the UCLG-MEWA General Assembly, UCLG-MEWA Council and UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau. He/She shall ensure the continuity of the fundamental policies of the organization between Executive Bureau meetings. The president is elected by UCLG-MEWA Council to serve during the term between two of the ordinary meetings of the General Assembly of UCLG-MEWA.

UCLG-MEWA Co-Presidents; assist the president in carrying out his/her responsibilities and when necessary assume the role of President. To ensure a balance of regional representation, up to three Co-presidents can be elected from the same country. As in the election process of the President, the Co-Presidents are elected by UCLG-MEWA Council to serve in the term between two of the ordinary meetings of the General Assembly of UCLG-MEWA.

UCLG-MEWA Treasurer; is responsible for the oversight of the financial strategy, accounting, and management of UCLG-MEWA. He/She shall preside at the Financial Management Committee (Supervisory Board) constituted of five members, which are appointed by the Executive Bureau. The electoral process of the Treasurer is the same as the President's and Co-Presidents' elections.

UCLG-MEWA Ombudsman; is the body where individuals or local governments who think they are affected negatively of the decisions and implementations taken in UCLG-MEWA bodies can apply and demand solution. Ombudsman is elected by the UCLG-MEWA Council for the same period of time as the other bodies.

UCLG-MEWA Secretary General; is the chief executive body of UCLG-MEWA. S/he directs the daily activities of UCLG-MEWA and car-

ries out the decisions of the General Assembly, the World Council and the Executive Bureau. UCLG-MEWA Secretary General is responsible for the employment of the General Secretariat's workers, manages daily activities and has a full authorization for working with banks and other credit institutions, ordering payments, undersigning all kinds of contracts, representing UCLG-MEWA before public administrations and courts as it is a legal representative of UCLG-MEWA on behalf of the Executive Bureau. The Secretary General is elected and dismissed by the UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau.

2- Organization Chart of the UCLG-MEWA Secretariat

Prepared based on Article 78 of the UCLG-MEWA Constitution, UCLG-MEWA Bylaws was adopted during the Executive Bureau and Council Joint Meeting on 19th of December 2014 in Adana, Turkey, has been put into force. According to the organization chart of the UCLG-MEWA Secretariat General - an annex of the bylaws adopted;

2.1. Secretary General: Information is given in the previous section, about the election and duties of the Secretary General of UCLG-MEWA, as the Secretary General is regarded as a body of UCLG-

ME- WA according to the UCLG-MEWA Constitution.

2.2. General Coordinator: Secretary General of UCLG-MEWA may appoint a General Coordinator who has a good command of grammar knowledge to assist himself and to represent the deputy secretary generals and himself, to undertake the UCLG-MEWA's activities, works and operations, and for the general coordination.

2.3. Administrative and Financial Affairs Coordinator: A well-experienced Administrative and Financial Affairs Coordinator can be assigned by the Secretary General to carry out the administrative and financial affairs and to assist himself/herself about these points.

2.4. Media and Public Relations Coordinator: Secretary General can appoint a well-experienced coordinator who took education about the related area in order to carry out and coordinate works on the general operation of UCLG-MEWA and the activities carried out.

2.5. Executive Assistants: Secretary General can appoint well-experienced secretaries or executive assistants who are successful in human affairs and who have education background for an executive assistantship to carry out the works in Secretary General's Office.

H- COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

There are nine committees that operate within United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section (UCLG-MEWA) in parallel with the UCLG World Organization. These committees which are structured according to each working area are the platforms established for arranging/leading the necessary meetings or activities to give the opportunity of exchanging ideas or sharing experiences with our members, advocating before the national governments or international organizations and preparing pilot projects.

These committees are as follows:

1. **Committee on Smart Cities:** Committee on Smart Cities performs works and activities about smart people, smart economy, smart transportation, smart garbage collection, smart water resources.
2. **Committee on Gender Equality:** Committee on Gender Equality aims to develop new standards about gender equality, at local governments, UCLG-MEWA region and worldwide. At the same time, this committee carries out works about the contributions that local governments should offer in order to ensure gender equality successfully, which is adopted by United Nations in September 2015 and is the fifth of the Sustainable Development Goals.
3. **Committee on Environment:** Committee on Environment carries out activities about climate change, sustainable waste management along with soil, water, air, and noise pollution.
4. **Committee on Development Cooperation and City Diplomacy:** Committee on Development Cooperation and City Diplomacy aim to encourage the sister city relationships among local governments in UCLG-MEWA region and in other regional sections, build cooperation between local governments about development and to take part actively in creating peace worldwide.
5. **Committee on Urban Mobility:** Committee on Urban Mobility carries out activities about sustainable urban mobility plans, accessibility to local transportation, transportation with a low level of carbon, traffic and transportation, integrated public transportation systems and smart transportation systems.
6. **Committee on Culture:** Committee on Culture includes works about local governments and culture as a sustainable development factor, heritage cities, and other activities under the project “Culture for Peace, Peace for Culture”.
7. **Committee on Social Inclusion:** Committee on Social Inclusion carries out activities about human rights for children, women, elderly and disabled people; private-public cooperation in urbanization, corporate social responsibility and fight against addiction.
8. **Committee on Tourism:** This committee aims at encouraging local governments to work towards animating tourism movements.
9. **Committee on Local Governance:** Committee on Local Governance carries out activities about layered governance, economic development, local finance, urban planning, transparency, accountability.

II. INFORMATION ON ACTIVITIES AND ASSESSMENT

A- UCLG ve UCLG-MEWA'NIN GÜÇLENDİRİLMESİ

B- BİRLEŞMİŞ MİLLETLER (BM), ULUSAL VE ULUSLARARASI TEŞKİLATLARLA İLİŞKİLERİN GELİŞTİRİLMESİ

C- YÖNETİM ORGANLARI TOPLANTILARI

D- KOMİTE ÇALIŞMALARI

E- BASIN-YAYIN VE HALKLA İLİŞKİLER

The previous Congress of United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section (UCLG-MEWA) took place in Gaziantep, Turkey on 19 April 2016. UCLG-MEWA Congress is organized every three years, as per the Constitution. Accordingly, the 6th UCLG-MEWA Congress is planned to be held on 9-10 July 2019 in Amman, Jordan. The works and activities of UCLG-MEWA for the period of three years since the Congress held in Gaziantep, Turkey have been carried out under the following titles.



A. UCLG VE UCLG-MEWA'NIN GÜÇLENDİRİLMESİ

Following the creation of new governing bodies in the Congress organized in Gaziantep, Turkey on 19 April 2016 and, in line with the decisions taken by the governing bodies, new initiatives have been launched in order to strengthen UCLG World Organization and UCLG-MEWA, by the UCLG-MEWA Secretariat, in the 15 countries that are in the activity area of UCLG-MEWA, which are Afghanistan, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Palestine, Iraq, Iran, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Oman, Jordan and Yemen. In this regard, following activities were carried out in this period: In this regard, the following activities have been carried out in this period:

1- Strengthening and Developing the Membership Base

1.1. Correspondence with the Embassies and Consulates-General;

A series of letters have been written again to the Embassies and Consulates-General of the MEWA countries in Turkey to inform them of the recent developments and seek their assistance in inviting the local authorities in respective countries to join UCLG and UCLG-MEWA.

1.2. Correspondence with the Embassies of the Republic of Turkey

Correspondences have been made with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, and the Embassies and missions of other 14 countries in the UCLG-MEWA region, to promote membership and strengthening membership base, and necessary support was obtained in this regard.

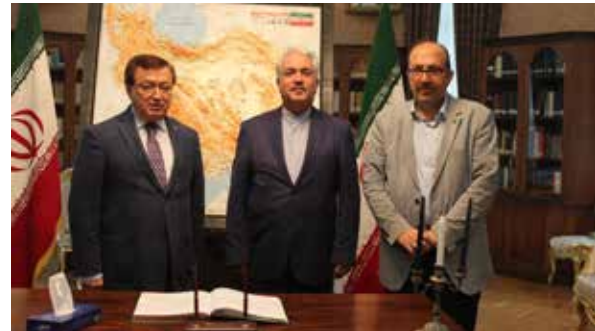
1.3. Visits to the Ambassadors and Consulates-General;

Within the concept of strengthening the membership, the Consulate Generals in Istanbul and Embassies in Ankara of the countries in the UCLG-MEWA region have been visited and asked for their support for the local authorities in their countries to become UCLG-MEWA members. In this regard, Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General has visited the above mentioned places.

Visit to the Consulate General of Iran

Headed by Mehmet Duman, Secretary General, UCLG MEWA delegation has paid a diplomatic visit to Islamic Republic of Iran Istanbul Consulate General on 9 June 2017. During the visit, the works have been carried out by UCLG-MEWA with local governments and local government associations in Iran have been consulted and possible cooperation areas have been discussed.

Conveying heartfelt condolences on behalf of all UCLG-MEWA members and staff for heinous attacks that took place in Tehran, Iran on 7 June 2017 to Mr. Bahtiyar Esedzâde, Istanbul Consul General of Iran; Secretary General Duman has also signed a message in the condolences book opened at the Consulate General.





UCLG-MEWA delegation gave information about the current update study on the UCLG-MEWA report on local government systems in the MEWA region and has noted the topics within the Iran chapter that Iran Consulate General can provide support for.

Within the context of the visit, Secretary General Duman has submitted UCLG-MEWA membership invitation letters to Consulate General representatives, to be delivered to the local governments in Iran. Secretary General Duman has also invited Consul General Esedzade to Intermediary Cities MEWA Regional Forum took place on 21-22 September 2017 in Nevşehir, Turkey; and has submitted invitation letters to relevant local governments in Iran for the Forum. Mr. Duman has also kindly requested the Consul General to promote Iranian municipalities for attending these events.

At the end of the visit, periodical and non-periodical publications of UCLG-MEWA were presented to the Consul General. UCLG-MEWA delegation also invited the Consul General to follow UCLG-MEWA via its and on Facebook-Twitter to stay informed about the activities of UCLG-MEWA. Visit to the Lebanese Consulate General in Istanbul

Lübnan İstanbul Başkonsolosluğu Ziyareti

With its 78 local governments and local government associations under the membership of UCLG-MEWA, Lebanon is hosting one of widest membership networks in the organization, which culminated in the visit of Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, to Lebanon Consulate General in Istanbul, with an accompanying delegation. Congratulating the newly-appointed Consul General H.E. Mounir Anouti, Secretary General Duman has informed Consul General Anouti about the foundation, governing the structure, projects and activities of the organization. with a specific reference to the efforts towards the localization of the 2030 Development Agenda.

The visit has been concluded after the exchange of ideas between Secretary General Duman and Consul General Anouti, about the upcoming activities of UCLG-MEWA, strengthening the current relations with UCLG-MEWA members in Lebanon and the reference documents published by the organization.



Visit to Consulate General of United Arab Emirates in Istanbul

Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, has paid a visit on 24 July 2018 to Khalifa Al-Marzooqi, Consul General of the United Arab Emirates in Istanbul, Turkey, in his office, to strengthen the cooperation among the local governments in the region, and to develop joint activities on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

During the visit, Secretary General Duman has briefed Consul General Marzooqi on the activities of the organization and informed him of the urgent need to open the doors of cooperation with local governments in the UAE. Secretary General Duman has also referred to the importance of ensuring the participation of local governments in UCLG-MEWA activities on localizing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, for the MEWA region.

Expressing his willingness to cooperate with UCLG-MEWA, Consul General Marzooqi has stated his wish to visit the related institutions in the United Arab Emirates to build communication channels, and to invite these institutions to UCLG-MEWA activities.



At the end of the visit, Secretary General Duman has presented a plaque to Consul General Marzooqi.

Other Visits Paid to Diplomatic Missions

UCLG-MEWA Delegation presided by Secretary General Duman have also paid visits to the Netherlands and Germany, in addition to the countries in the MEWA Region, during the period after the 5th UCLG-MEWA Congress. During the visits to the Consul Generals of Afghanistan, Palestine, Kuwait, Pakistan, Germany, Netherlands, Lebanon, and Culture and Education Relations Director of Consulate General of Arab Republic of Egypt; the works that UCLG-MEWA carries out with the local governments and local governments associations in the UCLG MEWA countries, the impacts of forced migration due to Syrian crisis on the local governments and local communities was evaluated and possible cooperation areas were also consulted. Possible ways of contribution by the Consulate Generals of UCLG MEWA countries for the ongoing preparations works report on local government systems in the region have also been discussed, during these visits. Invitation letters for UCLG MEWA membership have been also delivered to the representatives of the Embassies and Consulate Generals, to be conveyed to the municipalities in their region.

Within the context of the visits, Mehmet Duman, Secretary General, invited the Consul Generals and Ambassadors to the meetings of UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau, Committee on Urban Mobility and Development Cooperation and City Diplomacy, which took place in March 2017, in Nablus, Palestine. Representatives of the diplomatic missions of the countries in the region were asked to encourage the participation of the municipalities of their countries in the meetings.

In the visits, periodical and non-periodical publications of UCLG-MEWA were presented to the Ambassadors and Consul Generals.

Visit by Head of European Union Delegation to Turkey

Head of European Union Delegation to Turkey Ambassador Christian Berger, Mrs. Marilena Berger, and the accompanying delegation have visited UCLG-MEWA General Secretariat on 23 March 2019.



Coming together with the delegation, UCLG-MEWA Secretariat has introduced the main activities of the organization. Salim Korkmaz, UCLG-MEWA General Coordinator, has briefly presented delegation the governing structure of UCLG-MEWA and UCLG World Organization.

Mentioning the projects and publications of UCLG-MEWA, General Coordinator Korkmaz has also briefed participants on the historical background of the organization. Acknowledging that local governments are the closest administrative units to the citizens, the activities on migration, social cohesion, and adaptation in the MEWA Region were among the main issues discussed by the del-

egations. Parties have also discussed how to establish new cooperation and develop solution proposals for the problems in the region.

Ambassador Berger has stated that the municipalities have great responsibilities and many things to do for developing solutions. He further noted that UCLG-MEWA, as an international local government organization, has a key position to ensure the coordination between relevant municipal actions. Within this context, Secretary-General Duman noted that mutual and close follow-up of the works contributes to the strengthened cooperation. He also underlined that UCLG-MEWA is ready to cooperate more with the EU in this regard.

The official visit has concluded after experts' presentation on the history and culture of İstanbul and its districts, including Sultanahmet, where UCLG-MEWA headquarters is located.

Visit by the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran to UCLG-MEWA

Kourosh Moghtaderi, cultural attaché at the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has visited UCLG-MEWA General Secretariat, on 26 April 2019. Coming together with Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, Cultural attaché Moghtaderi, was first informed about the history and structure of the Organization.

During the meeting, the relations between UCLG-MEWA and local governments in Iran, one of the countries of the MEWA Region, were also discussed. In this regard, parties have also discussed the second meeting of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Culture, which was held in 2015 in partnership with UCLG-MEWA, Tehran Municipality and Asian Mayors Forum (AMF) and organized under the theme 'Colors are Our Common Culture'. It was underscored that such meetings provide important platforms to emphasize that the differences in the region are richness, and the culture plays a unifying role. In addition to this, the activities and platforms where local governments in Iran may par-

ticipate in to closely follow-up the global agendas more closely were discussed through the calendar of UCLG-MEWA.

Another highlight of the meeting was the cultural projects of Iran and local governments in Iran. Cultural attaché Moghtaderi has stated that they will carry out a cultural activity together with Iranian women artists in the near future and emphasized the significance of the partnership with UCLG-MEWA. The possible contributions of the project to be jointly organized with Iranian and Turkish women artists in Istanbul and Tehran were one of the prominent topics of the meeting. Cultural attaché Kourosh Moghtaderi has emphasized that they value the artists who produce their own business and carry the culture, and he also added that they want to take part in similar projects with UCLG-MEWA.



The contract was concluded following the consensus on to jointly organize a program on sustainable culture under the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Culture and continuation of close cooperation between institutions.

2- Strengthening the Relations with Regional Organizations and Members

Visit of Condolences from the UCLG-MEWA Delegation to Dr. Kadir Topbaş, UCLG President and Mayor of Istanbul

UCLG-MEWA Delegation, consisting of Fatma Şahin, Mayor of Gaziantep and President of United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section (UCLG-MEWA); Muhammed Saadieh, Pres-

ident of Union of Dannieh Municipalities, Co-President of UCLG-MEWA and; Ahmet Misbah Demircan, Mayor of Beyoglu; Mehmet Tevfik Göksu, Mayor of Esenler; and many other mayors have paid a visit of condolence to Dr. Kadir Topbaş, Mayor of Istanbul and President of UCLG on August 1, 2016 after the coup attempt that took place on July 15, 2016, in order to condemn the coup attempt.

Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality building was occupied and many citizens fighting against the coup were killed during the coup attempt. In front of the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (IMM) building, the delegation has left cloths on the panel wall with the photos of the July 15 martyrs, to commemorate the citizens that passed away that night.

“The Fight of The Elected”

Fatma Şahin, Mayor of Gaziantep and President of UCLG-MEWA, has stated that democracy starts at the local level and that UCLG-MEWA condemns the coup attempt that happened on July 15. Mrs. Şahin has also expressed that the fight that took place on July 15 was the struggle of not only Turkey but also of democracy, national will, and the elected all over the world.

We haven't come here only to offer our condolences to Dr. Kadir Topbaş, we have come here also to support him in the name of all free people and to share the pride of this victory.” said Mr. Saddieh, President of Union of Dannieh Municipalities and Co-President of UCLG-MEWA, expressing that Lebanese people also took to the streets to protest the coup on July 15 just like Turkish people did.



Visit Kuwait Municipality

Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, and Randa Al Sabbagh, Project Officer, has paid a visit to Kuwait Municipality, on 21-22 August 2016ç

Duman has informed Eng. Ahmed Al-Manfouhi, General Director of Kuwait Municipality, on the activities of the Organization and has invited Kuwait Municipality to join the UCLG-MEWA family.

Expressing their pleasure on the occasion of this visit, Mr. Al-Manfouhi has stated that they will be glad to participate in UCLG-MEWA membership network and they will discuss it.

2017 Coordination Meeting

“2017 Coordination Meeting of Local Government Organizations” was held in UCLG-MEWA Secretariat General on 20 December 2016. Besides UCLG-MEWA team, representatives from the Union of Municipalities of Turkey, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, World Academy for Local Democracy and Union of Turkish World Municipalities have participated in the meeting.

Apart from a review of activities conducted in 2016; planning and exchange of ideas for developing joint projects in terms of the activities to be conducted in 2017 were discussed during the meeting. Reiterating that certain sensitivity is needed when planning the activity calendar, Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, has expressed his remarks on the road map to be followed for making the local government representatives the main actors in the international events.



Stating that the coordination meeting, firstly held in 2015, has been efficient for local government networks, the participants have expressed that holding this meeting in the forthcoming periods would play an important role within local government organizations in terms of planning the activities and developing joint programs.

Visit to Sarıyer Municipality

Accompanied by a delegation, Mehmet Duman, UCLG MEWA Secretary General, paid a visit to Sarıyer Municipality, which has become a UCLG-MEWA, as of 5 January 2017.



Hosting the delegation of UCLG MEWA in his office, Şükrü Genç, Mayor of Sarıyer, provided information on the activities, such as the sister city relations and activities on children, that are carried out by the municipality. Congratulating Sarıyer Municipality for becoming a UCLG-MEWA member, Secretary General Duman touched upon the working principles and the activities of the organization. Mentioning the lobbying works and negotiations that are carried out before the international organizations and ministries, Secretary General Duman shared the results of the UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau and Council Joint Meeting and Migration Management Summit, which were held in Gaziantep and Şanlıurfa, Turkey. Highlighting the importance of the summits and the workshops carried out by UCLG-MEWA, Mayor of Sarıyer underlined the necessity of addressing the matters of development by organizations such as UCLG MEWA. Expressing his consideration of UCLG-MEWA as their interna-

tional representative, he stressed the need for mobilizing the international community, especially on migration management. During the meeting, it was also underlined that the most objective evaluations on solutions to problems were done by local governments, which are the closest level of government to the citizens.

Visit of Burhanettin Kocamaz, UCLG-MEWA Co-President

Burhanettin Kocamaz, the then Mayor of Mersin and UCLG-MEWA Co-President visited UCLG-MEWA Headquarters on 18 January 2017. In the meeting, Salim Korkmaz, UCLG-MEWA Relations with International Organizations Coordinator, made a presentation on structures of UCLG and UCLG-MEWA. Mr. Kocamaz, who met the UCLG-MEWA team in the meeting, exchanged ideas with the team on the activities that will be held in this period. Moreover, the visit that was undertaken to examine the migration-related activities of Mersin Metropolitan Municipality under the GIZ&QUDRA project on 13 December 2016 were also discussed.



Sister City Protocol between Maltepe Municipality and Lebanese Municipalities

The delegation of Mayors from Lebanon, including Mohamed Saadie, President of Union of Dannieh Municipalities and UCLG-MEWA Co-President; Abdulfattah Allam, Mayor of Mrah Sreij; Ziad Jamal, Mayor of Bakhoun; and Ali Sabra, Mayor of Bikaas-efrine visited Ali Kılıç, Mayor of Maltepe on 24 January 2017.

A commemoration ceremony for the people who lost their lives at Reina terrorist attack in Istanbul, including three Lebanon citizens, was held before the meeting. Ali Kılıç, Mayor of Maltepe, has made a speech at the commemoration ceremony, and said “These painful incidents will bring the people of two countries closer and will hit terror deeply,” and Muhammed Saadieh, President of Union of Dannieh Municipalities said that all nations should cooperate against terror, and these kinds of actions will not harm the friendship between the two countries.

After the commemoration ceremony, a delegation of Lebanese Mayors, led by Muhammed Sadieeh, the President of Union of Dannieh Municipalities and UCLG-MEWA Co-President, and Ali Kılıç, Mayor of Maltepe, have signed a sister-city agreement in Ortaköy.

Mayors from Morocco and Ivory Coast Paid Visits to Turkish Municipalities

Mehmet Duman, Secretary General of UCLG-MEWA, Mohamed Sefiani, Mayor of Chefchaouen (Morocco), Diane Nasseneba Toure, Mayor of Odienné (Ivory Coast) and UCLG-MEWA Staff gave paid visits to Gebze and Lüleburgaz Municipalities. During the visits that took place on 23-24 January 2017, guest Mayors received information on local governments in Turkey and made on-site visits to several ongoing projects of the municipalities.

The delegation has paid its first visit to Gebze Municipality on 23 January 2017. Providing information on Gebze to guest Mayors coming from Morocco and Ivory Coast; Mr. Adnan Köşker, Mayor of Gebze and UCLG-MEWA Treasurer, has made a presentation on their municipal works.

The delegation has visited Lüleburgaz Municipality on 25 January 2017. Emin Halebak, Mayor of Lüleburgaz, gave information to the guest Mayors on the municipal assembly and their works done in line with the principle of transparency. Halebak said: “A Strategic Plan must be developed. The term ‘governance’ should be preferred instead of ‘government.’ Society, women, and children should be given spe-

cial importance. More freedom areas should be offered for the benefit of our communities.” and expressed his pleasure to host the guests.

After the visits paid to the Lüleburgaz Municipality, the delegation composed of the Mayors from Ivory Coast and Morocco have visited Başakşehir Municipality and exchanged ideas with the Mayor. Presenting the services that the municipality provides to its citizens; Mevlüt Uysal, Mayor of Başakşehir, has stressed the fact that although Başakşehir Municipality has newly been established, it carried out a lot of projects that improved the quality of life of its residents. The visit ended with on-site visits to the ongoing projects of Başakşehir Municipality.



Süleymanpaşa Municipality Visited UCLG-MEWA

Ekrem Eşkinat, Mayor of Süleymanpaşa has visited UCLG-MEWA Headquarters on 25 January 2017. Selda Kara, Secretary General of Süleymanpaşa City Council has accompanied Mr. Eşkinat in his visit. In the meeting, Metin Özdemir, the then UCLG-MEWA Administrative and Financial Affairs Coordinator, has made a presentation on the structures of UCLG and UCLG-MEWA. Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General has also given information on UCLG-MEWA and its activities to Mr. Mayor. City councils were also discussed in the meeting. Selda Kara, Secretary General of Süleymanpaşa City Council has shared information on their activities to UCLG-MEWA team. Mentioning the relation between city council and municipality, Ms. Kara has informed the team about their upcoming activities. Mr. Mayor has said that genuine ideas of city councils are important elements that would contribute to local governments and citizens.



Jordan Visits

UCLG-MEWA has paid a technical visit to Jordan's Zarqa, Mafrqa, Irbid and Amman Municipalities on 14-15 May 2017 with the aim of organizing joint activities in order to create solutions to the challenges arising from forced migration in the region. In this regard, the activities of the municipalities have been observed and the studies have been kicked off on the problems in Jordan.

Visit the Municipalities in the Cappadocia Region

UCLG-MEWA delegation composed of Mr. Mehmet Duman, the UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, Mr. Salim Korkmaz, UCLG-MEWA Coordinator of International Relations Department and Ms. Randa Al Sabbagh, UCLG-MEWA Project Officer in Media and Public Relations Department, have paid a visit to Hasan Ünver, the then Mayor of Nevşehir, Ercan Ertaş, the then Mayor of Acıgöl, Ali Karaaslan, Mayor of Uçhisar and Fahri Yıldız, Mayor of Ürgüp, within the framework of the organization of the Intermediary Cities MEWA Regional Forum, held in Nevşehir, Turkey, on 21-22 September 2017.

UCLG-MEWA delegation met with the Mayor Ünver and the municipal staff that will be involved in the preparation and organization of the event. Mayor Ünver has stated that Nevşehir Municipality and its staff are ready to cooperate with UCLG-MEWA in order to contribute to the development of Intermediary Cities at the regional and international level.

Secretary General Duman has given information about the recent activities of UCLG-MEWA and invited the Mayors to participate to the Intermediary Cities MEWA Regional Forum, held in Nevşehir on 21-22 September 2017.

Mayor of Uçhisar has started by presenting the projects of the Municipality. One of the projects is the establishment of a women council. Mayor Karaaslan has stated that Uçhisar is a very important center of tourism.

Mayor of Ürgüp showed a big interest in the Intermediary Cities MEWA Regional Forum and pro-

posed to actively contribute through the presentation of the municipal project on restoration in one of the sessions and to arrange a visit to Ürgüp for the delegation, within the framework of the social program of the event. As Ürgüp is also an important touristic place, the Mayor was invited to be a member in both Committees on Tourism and Culture.



All of the 4 visits proved to be quite effective in terms of mobilizing UCLG-MEWA members in the Cappadocia region and to renew their commitment to contribute to the UCLG-MEWA activities.

Kocaeli Visits

Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, paid a series of visit to Kocaeli on 12 June 2017 to follow up the preparations for the workshop entitled "From Waste to Source-Integrated Solid Waste Management Solutions Planning for Municipalities" held on 4-6 July 2017. In this regard, Mr.Duman visited Izmit Waste and Residue Treatment, Incineration and Recycling Co. Inc. (İZAYDAŞ), Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality and Kocaeli Citizen Assembly.

Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, firstly visited Izmit Waste and Residue Treatment, Incineration and Recycling Co. Inc. (İZAYDAŞ) to follow up the preparations for the workshop entitled "From Waste to Source-Integrated Solid Waste Management Solutions Planning for Municipalities" held on 4-6 July 2017. During the visit, Mr. Duman evaluated the contents and technical details of the

program together with Muhammed Saraç, Director General of İZAYDAŞ, İsmail Uludağ, Deputy Director General of İZAYDAŞ, and Yusuf Yazıcı, Executive Assistant.



Following İZAYDAŞ visit, Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, visited İbrahim Karaosmanoğlu, the then Mayor of Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality, and Zekeriya Özak, Deputy Mayor, in their offices. In the meeting, Mr. Duman gave information on the upcoming events of UCLG-MEWA. Mr. Duman also expressed his pleasure to Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality for hosting the training program, which will support the mutual learning of German and Turkish municipalities on waste management and encourage them to prepare local action plans in this regard.



Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, lastly visited Kocaeli Citizen Assembly and met with Adnan Uyar, President of Kocaeli Citizen

Assembly, and Gültekin Görüm, Secretary General of Kocaeli Citizen Assembly to receive information on the activities and projects carried out by the Kocaeli Citizen Assembly. Following this, the parties evaluated possible partnerships on the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Technical Visit of UCLG-MEWA to Lebanon

Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, paid a series of visits to the major cities of Lebanon. Meeting with Hany Chmaytli, Secretary General of Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs within the context of the visits, Secretary General Duman and UCLG-MEWA delegation discussed the ways of strengthening relations between the organization and Lebanese municipalities.



Coming together with Çağatay Erciyes, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey in Beirut, Lebanon, within the context of the visits ; Secretary General Duman informed the Ambassador about the mission and ongoing projects of UCLG-MEWA in the region; highlighting the role played by UCLG-MEWA for reinforcing the relations between municipalities in Turkey and Lebanon, besides other municipalities in the region. Underlining the importance of this visit for the region, Ambassador Erciyes expressed his pleasure of advancing the existing mutual relations in between and urged the continuation of cooperation in the forthcoming period with a stronger bond.

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In the second day of the visit, Secretary General Duman; Mohamed Saadie, Co-President of UCLG-MEWA and Muhammed Mahli, UCLG-MEWA International Relations Coordinator, paid a visit to Saida Municipality. During the meeting, they discussed the possible cooperation areas in order to strengthen the relations of UCLG-MEWA with Saida Municipality and other municipalities in the region.

Mohamed Al Saudi, Mayor of Saida, informed UCLG-MEWA delegation on the strategic plan and projects of the municipality. Detailing the project aiming to transform the mountains of waste into green areas in the city, the Mayor stated that Saida will be one of the cleanest cities in the region as a result of this project.

During the meeting, Saida Municipality was determined as the Co-President of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Social Inclusion and also as the host of some of the future meetings of the Committee. Saida Municipality also became a member of various other committees of UCLG-MEWA in order to strengthen their partnership.

UCLG-MEWA delegation also paid a visit to Turkish Cultural Center of Yunus Emre Institute, which is an organization promoting the amicable relations between Turkey and other countries and working for increasing the cultural exchange in between within this regard. Highlighting the importance of the role played by culture to shorten the distances, Secretary General Duman reiterated his support to the works carried out to establish a new center in Tripoli.

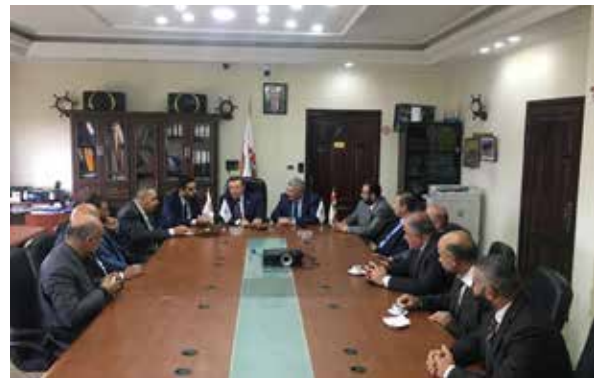
Visit to Beirut Municipality

Within the context of the Lebanon visit, Secretary General Duman and UCLG-MEWA delegation visited Jamal Itani, Mayor of Beirut. In the meeting, the parties discussed the ways of strengthened cooperation between Beirut Municipality and

UCLG-MEWA, and between Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and Beirut Municipality. Saying that Saida Municipality works with Turkish companies for cleaning and waste management in the streets of Beirut; Mayor Itani expressed his desire to establish stronger relations with Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality through the contributions of UCLG-MEWA bringing municipalities together and bridging their communities with a common history, all around the MEWA region.

Visit to the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) Office in Lebanon

Secretary General Duman and UCLG-MEWA delegation also paid a visit to Serhat Küçükyurt, TIKA Coordinator in Beirut. During the meeting, the delegations discussed the projects carried out by TIKA for the refugees in the region and exchanged ideas on the problems of Syrian refugees in Lebanon and other countries of the region. Secretary General Duman underlined that UCLG-MEWA is ready to fully support TIKA in all its projects in the region.



Visit to the Union of Municipalities of Dannieh

Visiting the Union of Dannieh Municipalities on the third day of the visit, Secretary General Duman and UCLG-MEWA delegation met with the Mayors of the region to discuss possible cooperation areas. The delegation also paid a visit to the new building of the Union in Bakhoun, which is still in the construction process. During the visit, Secretary General Duman promised to provide support for the construction of the theatre hall of the building,

in cooperation with the Union of Municipalities of Turkey and other relevant institutions.



Tripoli Visit

Following the meetings in Dannieh, UCLG-MEWA delegation visited Tripoli Municipality and met with Mayor Ahmad Kamar Al Din. Discussing possible cooperation areas between Tripoli Municipality and UCLG-MEWA, the delegations reviewed the membership of Tripoli Municipality and the Union of Municipalities of Al Fayhaa, to UCLG-MEWA.

Meeting with the Mayors of Northern Areas in Lebanon

Within the context of the visits, Co-President Mohamed Saadie held a lunch meeting bringing together 21 presidents municipal unions, 40 mayors from northern areas of Lebanon, as well as the Mayors of Akkar, Tripoli, Minyeh and Dannieh. In his speech after the lunch, Co-President Saadie welcomed UCLG-MEWA delegation on behalf of

all municipalities. Highlighting the importance of this visit of Secretary General Duman to further the cooperation between UCLG-MEWA and the municipalities in the region, he addressed the joint projects carried out in this regard.

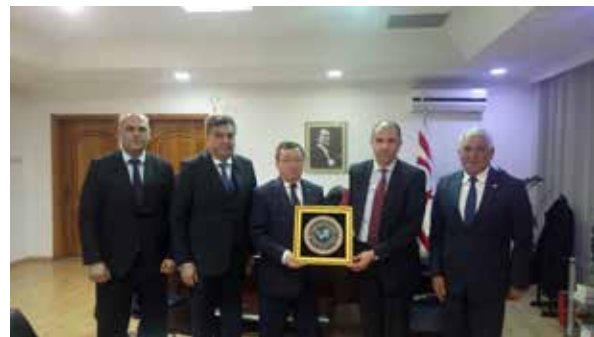
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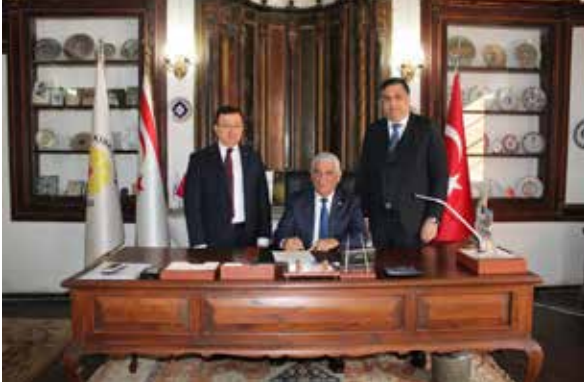
Taking the floor at the end of the meeting, Secretary General Duman thanked Co-President Saadie and other mayors for their hospitality; and noted that he would come to Lebanon soon again to visit Bekaa, Mount Lebanon and Southern areas of Lebanon municipalities, for discussing the ways of strengthening the relations in between.

Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus Visits

UCLG-MEWA Delegation, headed by Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary-General, made some contacts in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), between 20-22 January 2019, in order to strengthen institutional relations.

Starting his official visits to the Union of Turkish Municipalities of Cyprus (UTMC), Secretary-General Duman has come together with Mahmut Özçınar, President of UTMC and Mayor of Güzelyurt; İlker Edip, Mayor of Beyarmudu; and Hüseyin Köle, Secretary of International Delegation.





In the meeting held at the Headquarter of UTMÇ on 21 January 2019, Duman has noted the need for strengthening relations with local governments in the TRNC and conducting joint studies more actively. Referring to the Pilot Project on Mapping the Sustainable Development Goals in Turkey, Secretary-General Duman has underlined the importance of conducting similar studies across the TRNC. In doing so, he noted, local government in the TRNC can work with more reference to the global agendas. Mahmut Özçınar, President of UTMÇ and Mayor of Güzelyurt has also stated that strengthened cooperation between the local governments in the TRNC and UCLG-MEWA would increase the efficiency of the works and ensure the continuation of activities in parallel with the agendas of the international platforms.



The second visit of the day was organized to the Turkish Embassy in Lefkoşa. UCLG-MEWA and UTMÇ delegations were hosted by Fatih Öztürk, Undersecretary of the Ambassador.

Undersecretary Öztürk was informed about the organizational structure as well as projects and activities of UCLG-MEWA. Activities on the Sustainable Development Goals were among the focal points of the meeting.

The next address of the Delegation was the Municipality of Girne. UCLG-MEWA and KTBB delegations have visited Nidai Güngördü, Mayor of Girne, at his office and briefly informed him about the activities of the committees of UCLG-MEWA. The potential of Girne Municipality, especially in tourism, was the main topic of the meetings. In this regard, participants have discussed how to realize this potential through UCLG-MEWA committees. Expressing his excitement for the possible cooperations, Mayor Güngördü has stated that they will conduct necessary works as early as possible. Mehmet Hulusioğlu, Mayor of Çatalköy, has drawn attention to the fact that the municipalism is progressing very rapidly across the world, and therefore, local responsibilities are increasing every passing day.

After the meeting with the Mayors, the Delegation have visited Ayşegül Baybars, TRNC Minister of Internal Affairs, and Prof. Dr. Kudret Özersay, TRNC Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, in their offices.

Activities of UCLG-MEWA were shared in both meetings. Parties have also discussed the possibility of an implementation of a project similar to the UCLG-MEWA Pilot Project on Mapping the SDGs in Turkey and evaluated its possible outputs for TRNC.

On the second day of the contacts, the delegation has visited Hasan Sadıkoğlu, Mayor of İskele, and İlker Edip, Mayor of Beyarmudu.

Mayor Edip has given information about the activities of the Beyarmudu Municipality, and he underlined the importance of expanding the cooperation area between local governments and UTMC. Following the meeting, the delegation has made a technical visit to the South Mesarya Social Facilities.

Within the context of these visits, Secretary-General Duman has underlined the importance of partnership opportunities to be built on the works of the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Gender Equality. In this regard; Mahmut Özçınar, UTMC President and Mayor of Güzelyurt; Nidai Güngördü, Mayor of Girne; Mehmet Hulusioğlu, Mayor of Çatalköy; Hasan Sadıkoğlu, Mayor of İskele; and İlker Edip, Mayor of Beyarmudu have signed the Commitment of Localization of Sustainable Development Goal 5 of the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Gender Equality.

Visit by Mayor of Tunis

The Mayor of Tunis and the accompanying delegation have visited UCLG-MEWA General Secretariat on 14 March 2019, right after participating in the session on “Sustainability in Smart Cities” moderated by Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary-General, and organized within the context of the World Cities’ Congress Istanbul 2019. The delegation, including Hadi Malik, Consul General of Tunisia in Istanbul; and Fawzi Haidari, Consul of Tunisian Economic and Cultural Affairs, have made a consultation with UCLG-MEWA delegation on the local government relations between Turkey, Tunisia and neighboring countries. Tunisian delegation has also been received brief information about the activities of UCLG-MEWA.



In this gathering that representatives from Tunisia diplomatic missions and Tunisian mayors also attended, participants discussed local governments’ roles from the perspective of the importance of city diplomacy in international relations. This meeting provided an important platform to present a ground for establishing stronger relations between the cities as for the implementation of the global goals. Parties have also noted the importance of the implementation of what is agreed on the papers and protocols. One another agenda of the meeting was Tunisian students living in Istanbul. Parties have also discussed the possibility to organize a meeting for Tunisian students at the General Secretariat of UCLG-MEWA.



UCLG-MEWA Co-President Saadie's Istanbul Contacts

UCLG-MEWA Presidency has continued to meet with local governments representatives in the MEWA region. Within this context, Mohamed Saadie, UCLG-MEWA Co-President and President of Union Municipalities of Dannieh, has paid a series of official visits to local governments in Istanbul. During visits made between 30 April - 2 May, Ziad Jamal, Mayor of Bakhoun (Lebanon) and Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, have accompanied to Co-President Saadie.

The first stop of the visit was Şeyma Doğücü, Mayor of Sancaktepe. Briefing her on the activities of the Organization, Secretary General Mehmet Duman mentioned the works of the Committee on Gender Equality. The next visit was made to Ümraniye Municipality. UCLG-MEWA Delegation was debriefed by İsmet Yıldırım, Mayor of Ümraniye, about the planned activities of the Municipality. Parties have also discussed possible partnerships. The delegation also came together with Arc. Dr. Kadir Topbaş, UCLG President for 2010-2016, and evaluated local policies.

As a continuation of the visit program; a meeting was held with the Hasan Tahsin Usta, Mayor of Gaziosmanpaşa. Co-President Saadie and Mayor Usta talked about the actions needed to be taken by local governments on the recent refugee movement. Finally, Lokman Çağırıcı, Mayor of Bağcılar and Ahmet Cin, Mayor of Pendik was visited. Mayor Çağırıcı has stated that the activities they carried

out in the previous period will increasingly continue in this new period. Mayor Cin was informed by Co-President Saadie and Secretary General Duman about the activities of the organization.

On 31 March 2019, local elections were held in Turkey, one of the countries in the MEWA region. On the occasion of the visits, the Mayors were congratulated and exchanges were made on the possible partnerships in this new period. The relations between local governments in Turkey and Lebanon were also evaluated with a specific reference to the Sustainable development Goals.

Visit to Kadıköy Municipality



On 28 May 2019, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General and his accompanying delegation visited Şerdil Dara Odabaşı, Mayor of Kadıköy, in his office. In the local elections held on 31 March 2019 in Turkey, one of the countries of the MEWA Region, Şerdil Dara Odabaşı was selected as the Mayor of Kadıköy. On the occasion of the visit, Secretary General Duman delivered his greeting and success wishes to the newly elected mayor. In the meeting, Secretary General Duman has given detailed information to Mayor Odabaşı about UCLG-MEWA history, its activities, and committees as well as the upcoming UCLG-MEWA Congress. Representatives of Kadıköy Municipality have shared their planned activities as for the new period.

In the meeting where the UCLG-MEWA projects were discussed, parties have exchanged their ideas on the current projects being conducted by UCLG-MEWA. Possible joint projects were also evaluated.

Secretary General Duman has invited Mayor to join the UCLG-MEWA family. The meeting ended after greeting and discussion on possible partnerships.

UCLG-MEWA Visit to Gebze Municipality

UCLG-MEWA has continued to visit the newly or re-elected mayors on the occasion of the local government elections held in Turkey, one of the countries in the MEWA Region, on 31 March 2019, in order to congratulate the mayors and to provide information on the organization. Within this context, Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, and his delegation has visited Zinnur Büyükgöz, who was elected as the Mayor of Gebze and who also serves as UCLG Treasurer for the 2016-2019 Period.

First of all, Mayor Büyükgöz was informed about the organizational structure and functioning of UCLG-MEWA. Secretary General Duman also gave detailed information about the Pilot Project on Mapping the Sustainable Development Goals, which is Gebze Municipality is a part of, and the activities across the MEWA region. Another important agenda item of the visit was the preparations for the UCLG-MEWA Congress that will be held on 9-10 July 2019 in Amman, the capital of Jordan. Within this regard, preparations for the UCLG-MEWA Financial Management Committee / Supervisory Board Meeting were also discussed with Mayor Büyükgöz.



Sharing the issues followed by the Organization on global agendas is another important pillar of the visits. Accelerating its activities in the region especially after Intermediary Cities Middle East and West Asia (MEWA) Regional Forum held in Nevşehir in September 2017, UCLG-MEWA delegation evaluated the works to be carried out in Gebze, one

of the role models in Turkey as for the i-cities.

Coming to the fore with their connections between the rule and urban and its key role for development, I-cities will be one of the issues focused on in the new working period of the organization. Within this regard, UCLG-MEWA continues to follow the works with pilot municipalities determined in the countries in the MEWA Region and to take the necessary steps together with the members for an integrated functioning to the global policies.

B. STRENGTHENING RELATIONS WITH UN AND NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Activities conducted from 19 April 2016 to 09 July 2019 within the context of developing relations with United Nations agencies and other relevant international organizations include the following.

1- Developing Relations with UN Agencies

Activities conducted during the reporting period (19 April 2016-09 July 2019) within the context of developing relations with United Nations agencies include the following:

1.1. 40th session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee

Within the scope of the 40th Session of UNESCO World Heritage Committee held on July 10- 17, 2016, UCLG-MEWA and OWHC (Organization of World Heritage Cities) has held a joint side event, in Istanbul Congress Center. Panelists from all over the world have made presentations in the side event titled “Urban Resilience and Protection of Cultural Heritage”. During the event, held in the panel format, and moderated by Lee Minaidis, OWHC Deputy Secretary General; Dr. Leyla Şen, the

then UCLG-MEWA General Coordinator, has given information on UCLG-MEWA to the participants before the presentations.

During the program, which lasted one and a half hour, Denis Ricard, OWHC Secretary General, Michael Turner, Representative of the Director of UNESCO World Heritage Committee, Matthias Ripp, OWHC Regional Director, Sezer Cihan, Union of Historical Cities Secretary General, Asst. Prof. Pelin Pinar Özden, and Hüseyin Tok, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Head of the Department of Cultural Assets, have given speeches. In the last part of the event, which was available to participants accredited for the 40th Session of UNESCO WHC and which attracted intensive attention, panelists answered the questions posed by participants.

What is OWHC?

With over 290 adherents, the OWHC primarily assists member cities in the adoption and improvement of heritage conservation and management methods, with reference to the World Heritage Convention, and UNESCO standards. The Organization also encourages co-operation and information exchange among its members and promotes sustainable development principles.

1.2. Habitat III PrepCom3

The 3rd meeting of Habitat III Preparatory Committee (PrepCom3) has been held in Surabaya, Indonesia on 25-27 July 2016. PrepCom3 has made strong progress towards the adoption of the New Urban Agenda in Quito. During the intensive debates that lasted 3 days, the representatives of the member countries have discussed the most important aspects of the agenda on sustainable urbanization.

In 27 parallel events and 39 side events, United Nations member states, representatives from intergovernmental organizations and local and regional governments, and stakeholders discussed a new model of sustainable urban development.

Before the Habitat III Conference, held in Quito,

PrepCom3 has proved to be an important opportunity for the debates on the New Urban Agenda with its high number of participants during the meetings. In total, 4,242 participants from 142 different countries have participated in the 3-day meeting. As a result of the negotiations lasted three days, the final draft of the New Urban Agenda has been published, however, it has been decided to continue the discussion at the technical level in order for responding the challenges.

Urban Speakers Corner

In parallel with the PrepCom3 Sessions, an innovative format, where speakers from different stakeholders from different parts of the world took the floor for up to 20 minutes, has been introduced. The sessions were recorded, promoted and broadcasted live on social media.

Dr. Leyla Şen, UCLG-MEWA General Coordinator, has addressed the audience on 25th July and summarized the role of local governments in addressing the refugee crisis. Dr. Şen has provided some examples and statistics on refugees from the MEWA region and underlined the need for cooperation and solidarity among the international community to help cities hosting a huge number of refugees. Dr. Şen has also informed the participants on the initiatives taken by UCLG-MEWA for raising awareness and alleviating the problems experienced in cities of the MEWA region. Dr. Şen's speech was well received by the audience. During the Q&A session, Mr. Frederick Vallier, Secretary General of CEMR, expressed his support to the points raised by Dr. Şen.

The Urban Speakers Corner has continued to host speakers throughout the Prep-Com3 event.

Side Event: Towards An Arab Urban Agenda

The side event titled "Towards an Arab Urban Agenda" has been organized by League of the Arab States and UN-Habitat Regional Office for the Arab States on 26 July 2016. With intense participation of the representatives, the event has outlined the

key challenges the Arab region is facing with regard to housing and sustainable urban development. It has also addressed the future prospects and opportunities for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda – particularly the Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG11) – make human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

During the session, Dr. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, the UN-Habitat Deputy Executive Director, H.E. Bassem Yacoub Alhomar, Minister of Housing, Kingdom of Bahrain, Dr. Abdelrahman Alsheikh, Deputy Minister of Municipalities and Rural Affairs, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Naela Haddad from the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), Mr. Waleed Al-Araby from the League of Arab States, and Salim Korkmaz, UCLG-MEWA Coordinator have made their speeches touching upon different topics on urbanization issues in the Arab region.

In this regard, Salim Korkmaz has emphasized the role of local authorities in addressing the global urban development challenges and localizing and monitoring the implementation of the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda.

The event has concluded with discussions on the positions of Arab states towards the New Urban Agenda and their visions for regional cooperation.

1.3. HABITAT III Conference

Habitat III Conference has been held on 17-20 October 2016 in Quito, Capital of Ecuador. During the Conference, where 30.000 participants worldwide were accredited; national delegations, local governments, NGOs and other stakeholders have engaged in negotiations on how the next 20 years of cities and human settlements will be shaped, through the Plenary Sessions, parallel events and side events. 4 day-long Conference was concluded with the adoption of the New Urban Agenda. The New Urban Agenda, the outcome document of the Conference serves as a guide of how sustainable urban development will be ensured throughout the

world. The New Urban Agenda, which recognizes the sub-national and local governments as the strategic and operational partners of development, along with national governments, marks important gains for local government movement, has pioneered by UCLG. UN-HABITAT will now focus on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, within the framework of the Quito Implementation Plan. Quito Implementation Plan includes commitments of various partnerships aiming at contributing the

implementation of the outcomes of Habitat III and of New Urban Agenda.

The Conference, which witnessed the largest NGO and local government participation in the history of the United Nations, has hosted more than 2.000 local and regional government representatives. The New Urban Agenda, the outcome document of the Conference serves as a guide of how sustainable urban development will be ensured throughout the world.



Local governments which gathered for the Conference has organized the Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Leaders in Quito. Members of Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments has prepared a Declaration as an outcome document of the Assembly which was organized as part of Habitat III.

1.4. UN-HABITAT Expert Group Meeting on Migration and Inclusive Cities in the Arab World

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) was carried out by Arab Regional Office on 27th and 28th October 2016 in Beirut, the capital city of Lebanon. Local governors, representatives of local government unions, experts and bureaucrats coming from a great number of countries from Arab Region such as Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Tunisia, and Morocco have participated to the meeting with UCLG-MEWA.

Participants who made presentations in the context of the meeting have shared data about the conditions of the local governments and countries that host the refugees in the Arab Region. The representative of UCLG MEWA has provided a presentation about the activities on migration and refugees that are done by the organization. The meeting that continued during two days has ended with a session of brainstorming and discussion, which included all the participants.

1.5. United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA) Meeting

Local and regional government networks have gathered in Istanbul on 24 April 2017 for the meeting of the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA).

The meeting titled “Global Development Agendas, Implications for Local Governments” was an opportunity to review the implications of the Sustainable Development Agenda and the New Urban Agenda (NUA). Joan Clos, the then UN-Habitat Executive Director, Josep Roig, the then UCLG Secretary General, Fatma Şahin, Mayor of Gaziantep and President of UCLG-MEWA, Carlos Martinez Minguez, Mayor of Soria and Vice-President of CEMR, Aysen Nikolaev, Mayor of Yakutsk and Vice President of UCLG Eurasia, Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General were among the participants of the meeting that was chaired by Kadir Topbaş, the then Mayor of Istanbul and Chairman of UNACLA. Mayors and

locally elected representatives from the Philippines, Benin, and Botswana also attended the event and shared their experiences, along with Secretaries General and representatives from UCLG Sections, and partners such as the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) and Citynet.

Mayor Topbaş, in his speech, stated that “We are meeting for the first time after the adoption of the New Urban Agenda. Also, 26th Session of UN-Habitat Executive Council will take place in two weeks in Nairobi. Important decisions will be made here on the implementation and follow up of Quito Commitments. Mr. Topbaş continued his speech by saying “It is time to show the important role of local and regional governments in development. As local and regional governments, we are the key actors that enable development for all.”

Dr. Joan Clos, the then Executive Director of UN-Habitat invited all representatives to contribute to the Framework of Implementation of the NUA (AFINUA) and to develop proposals for implementation.

Mayor Fatma Şahin emphasized the importance of the monitoring process in order to make sure that we are progressing on our path to strengthen local governments. In her capacity as UCLG-MEWA President, she also reminded the importance of migration for the world and more specifically for the MEWA region. In the city of Gaziantep, which hosts more than 500,000 refugees (representing 25% of the population) the pressure on local governments has reached a critical level.

Similar recommendations were made by UCLG Secretary General and CEMR representative as they acknowledge that the world is going through a crucial paradigm shift to recognize the importance of local government. Central governments realize that local governments are at the heart of the Sustainable Development Goals but there is still a lot to do in order to ensure that delegation of competences goes along with financial means.

Dr. In this regard, Dr. Clos congratulated Dr. Topbaş for his invaluable efforts in administrating Istanbul

Metropolitan Municipality which has led to great achievements in the city. Reminding that planned urbanization is a key in making sustainable cities, Dr. Clos invited participants to assess the impact of local governments' legislation on urbanization path.

Diana Lopez, Head of Urban Governance at UN-Habitat, presented the progress report of UNACLA as well as opportunities to influence key UN system events including UN-Habitat Governing Council (May 2017), the High-level Political Forum for the Agenda 2030 (July 2017 and 2018) or Dialogues with Ministries for Cities. Dr. Clos concluded the event in reiterating that there is a momentum for local governments to get strengthened and that UNACLA, under the leadership of Dr. Topbaş, will be an invaluable tool to reach this goal.

1.6. Global Conference on Cities and Migration

Organized with the partnership of United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), International Organization for Migration (IOM) and United Cities and Local Governments World Organization (UCLG); Global Conference on Cities and Migration took place on 16-17 November 2017, in Mechelen, Belgium. With the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Belgian Federal Government and under the auspices of Mechelen Municipality, the event was held at Lamot Congress Center. More than 150 local government representatives from 50 countries and representatives of UN agencies, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, and international organizations participated in the sessions. The Conference was organized with an aim to reflect the local dynamics of migration and sustainable urban development, on the international arena, within the context of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

As a preparatory event for encouraging the contribution of local governments to the Global Compact on Migration, the Conference also became a step towards the monitoring of the implementation process of the New Urban Agenda, developed as per the outputs of Habitat III. Although

the first monitoring of the Agenda officially started at the 9th World Urban Forum that took place in February 2018, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; the Conference has contributed to the evaluations on the implementation process of the migration-related commitments of the Agenda.

Representing the Middle East and West Asia (MEWA) region; Kahramanmaraş Metropolitan Municipality, Şanlıurfa Metropolitan Municipality, Kilis Municipality, Keçiören Municipality, Sultanbeyli Municipality, Eyyübiye Municipality, Union of Municipalities of Turkey, World Academy for Local Government and Democracy (WALD) participated in the Conference. After opening session, Hasan Kara, Mayor of Kilis; Nihat Çiftçi, Mayor of Şanlıurfa, Fatih Mehmet Erkoç, Mayor of Kahramanmaraş, took the floor and made speeches on the current situation of migration in the cities they represent. They all expressed that international institutions and states should take joint responsibility for migration management.

The most major output of the conference is Mechelen Declaration on Cities and Migration, that will be improved by mayors and representatives of local and regional governments. Participating local governments contributed to the preparation of the Declaration, in particular on migration policies developed for inclusive development and the innovative & effective approaches of urban governance.

1.7. 9th Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF9)



One of the most comprehensive United Nations conferences on sustainable urban development and

cities, the 9th Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF9) was held on 7-13 February 2018, in Kuala Lumpur, capital of Malaysia, under the auspices of Malaysian Government and with the support of the United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-HABITAT). Representing UCLG-MEWA; Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, Mohammed Saadie, UCLG-MEWA Co-President and Barış Timur, UCLG-MEWA Project Officer, participated in the Forum that was organized with the theme “Cities 2030, the Cities for All,” bringing 22,000 participants together from around the world.



Speaking at the opening of the Forum, Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, UN-HABITAT Executive Director, highlighted the changing needs of cities and human settlements and emphasized the importance of adopting multi-stakeholder approaches in the creation of future cities. Women's Assembly and the Children and Youth Assembly took place following the opening session. The first day of the Forum was concluded with the closing session of the assemblies.

Local and Regional Governments Declaration

On the second day of the Forum dated 8 February 2018, UCLG and Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, which is a consultation and cooperation mechanism initiated with the call of Dr. Kadir Topbaş in 2013, co-organized the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments. At the end of the meeting moderated by Emilia Saiz, UCLG Secretary General, and Bernardia Tjandrewi, UCLG ASPAC Secretary General; the Statement of Local and Regional Governments was presented.

Presenting the statement together with Frederick

Vallier, CEMR Secretary General, and Octavi De La Varga, METROPOLIS Secretary General; Secretary General Duman underscored the importance of integrating all sustainability agendas at global, national and local levels. He further referred to the need to adopt a model of strong local governance putting citizens at the core of the decision making processes. To achieve this, he added, local and regional governments should be empowered through proper and adequate allocation of authority, resources, and responsibilities.

The third day of the Forum continued with thematic sessions. As a speaker at “the Mayors Panel,” Mohammed Saadie, President of the Union of Municipalities of Dannieh & UCLG-MEWA Co-President, addressed to the participants on the challenges encountered in the MEWA region, in terms of migration management. Tayseer Abu Sheineh, Mayor of Hebron in Palestine, also gave a speech in the Panel, about the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in the Arab geography.

After the panel, Secretary General Duman and Co-President Saadie participated in the preparatory meeting organized to discuss the ongoing works towards Intermediary Cities World Forum held on 5-7 July 2018, in Chefchaouen, Morocco. In the meeting gathering Emilia Saiz, UCLG Secretary General, Mohammed Sefiani, Mayor of Chefchaouen & President of UCLG Intermediary Cities Forum, Firdaus Oussidhoum, Coordinator of UCLG Intermediary Cities Forum, Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, Moroccan Ministers and many other high-level representatives together; participants also discussed the outputs of the Mapping Workshop organized recently in Nevşehir, Turkey, as part of UCLG-MEWA's preparations towards the World Forum. Within the same day, Co-President Saadie gave speeches in two sessions titled “Crisis in Cities, Cities in Crisis” and “Urban Forced Displacement.” Intermediary Cities for a More Balanced and Fair National Development”

“Intermediary Cities for a More Balanced and Equitable National Development”

Following his participation in the session “An

Integrated Territorial Approach to Sustainable Development,” Secretary General Duman paid a visit to the Turkish Embassy in Kuala Lumpur and met with Merve Safa Kavakçı, Ambassador of Turkey to Malaysia, on 10 February 2018. After the visit, Duman attended the session on “the New Urban Agenda in Intermediary Cities,” where he emphasized the fact that the economies of many countries are today concentrated on major metropolises. Noting the role of intermediary cities in this regard, Secretary General Duman also highlighted that -intermediary cities can contribute to establishing a more balanced and fair national economic development if provided with proper incentives. Secretary General Duman also stated that intermediary cities may act as buffer zones for unprecedented migration flows to metropolises, and thus, they can enable a share of responsibility and burden in a more fair and balanced way.

The Forum continued with many side events and special sessions. It was an important reference ground for the first report to be prepared on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

1.8. United Nations Forum On Public Services

Public Services Forum, organized by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), was held on 21-23 June 2018 in Marrakesh, Morocco. A session was held by the UCLG in the Forum, which was held under the theme “Ensuring Governance to Realize Sustainable Development Goals.” Asira El Shamaliya Municipality (Palestine) and Amman Metropolitan Municipality (Jordan) participated in this session as representatives of the MEWA Region.

Municipalities participating in the program representing UCLG-MEWA and contributing to the presentation benefited in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals from the opportunity to strengthen the cooperation between the central government and local administrations, to increase the capacity for global agendas in the national and national mechanisms and to share knowledge and experience on effective multi-

stakeholder cooperation. Within the scope of the Forum, the contribution of MEWA Region to the increase of local ownership in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals and thus the importance of cities in development has contributed to the increase in capacity.

1.9. United Nations High-Level Political Forum

The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), organized by the United Nations in July every year, was held in New York, the USA on 9-18 July 2018, with the theme “Transformation to Sustainable and Resistant Communities” in 2018. UCLG-MEWA Secretary General and Mayor of Karesi represented the MEWA Region in the program attended by representatives of central governments and local governments.

In the Forum, which aims to develop a road map for the problems in this area by examining the progress made by the member states in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, regional reports were presented by the Global Task Force of the Local and Regional Authorities (GTF) under the leadership of the UCLG World Organization. Data from the Bahrain, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the State of Palestine and the United Arab Emirates from UCLG-MEWA in the MEWA Region have been included in the reports.

2. Strengthening Relations with International Organizations

Joint works and activities conducted during the reporting period (19 April 2016 - 09 July 2019) within the context of developing relations with international organizations include the following:

2.1. World Humanitarian Summit

The World Humanitarian Summit has been held on 23-24 May 2016 in Lutfi Kırdar International Congress and Exhibition Center.

Kadir Topbaş, the then Mayor of Istanbul and UCLG President, have addressed a speech in the session titled “Political Leadership for Preventing and

Stopping Conflicts” in the Summit organized for the first time.

In his speech, “Here I address you with my two titles, mayor of IMM and President of UCLG. Near can be managed easily, while far is not. With its population of more than 15 million and history can be dated back 8.500 years, Istanbul is a city of peace in its real meaning. People of different religions and cultures have been living here in Istanbul for 563 years. We can say that Istanbul is the symbol city of peace and peace. It should be examined how this happened.” he has said

The summit has been held at a time when human suffering reached its highest level since World War II, whether due to natural disasters or as a result of armed conflicts. The Summit has been organized for developing solution proposals for the tests facing the current global humanitarian system, and for creating an agenda for the future of humanitarian efforts.

2.2. Policy Forum on Development Meetings

Activities conducted during the reporting period (19 April 2016-09 July 2019) within the context of developing relations conducted under the Policy Forum on Development include the following:

2.2.1. Policy Forum on Development - October 2016

Representatives of the Policy Forum on Development (PFD) have convened in Dakar, Capital of Senegal, on 3-6 October 2016. The Forum has been opened by Khalifa Sall, Mayor of Dakar and President of UCLG Africa.

The main theme of the Forum discussions has been the role of local governments and NGOs will be in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and what mechanisms and instruments the EU, as a main donor of the process, will need, in reaching out to the local governments.

Dr. Leyla Şen, the then UCLG-MEWA General Coordinator, has been attended the meeting.

2.2.2. Policy Forum on Development Task Team February Meeting - February 2017

The meeting of the Policy Forum on Development Task Team which is responsible for making preparations and managing the process for the meetings of Policy Forum on Development (PFD), organized by the European Commission, was held on 1-2 February 2017 in Brussels, the capital of Belgium and the headquarter of the EU.

During the meeting that gathered task team members including UCLG ASPAC, FLACMA, PLATFORMA as well as UCLG-MEWA for representing local authorities; the participants evaluated and discussed the 2017 activity calendar and the 5th PFD Meeting held in March 2017. In the meeting where the process of renewal of the Task Team was also discussed, participants highlighted the importance of participatory partnership in responding to today's complex and intertwined challenges and in the implementation of Agenda 2030.

The meeting also focused on possible partnerships between the European Union and the countries of the region with the aim of achieving resilient societies and more stable governance in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. The two-day Task Team meeting was concluded with a summary of the sessions and a roadmap for the upcoming PFD meetings.

2.2.3. Policy Forum for Development (PFD) Task Team and Annual Global Meetings - March 2017

Policy Forum on Development (PFD) Task Team and Meetings of the Annual Global Forum took place in Brussels on 21-23 March 2017. The Meeting of Policy Forum on Development Task Team focused on the roadmap for 2017 and the preparation of a joint paper on inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships.

The meeting was concluded with the approval of the 2017 Roadmap.



Following the first session where the participants discussed the recent progress of PFD and proposals & roadmap for 2017 and the following period; the second session was held on the role of the EU and its partners for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, as the most important global agenda. The participants emphasized that implementation will be undertaken through resilience, security and development axes and partnership with the local governments will be shaped with transformative practices and theories of change modality. High-priority thematic areas for the EU were defined as climate change; gender equality; fragile societies; and elimination of the root causes of forced migration. They also added that regardless of the thematic field, enabling environment analysis will be included to all call for proposals.

2.2.4. Policy Forum on Development Policy Task Team June Meeting - June

Last meeting of the Policy Forum on Development Task Team, which is responsible for making preparations and managing the process for the meetings of Policy Forum on Development (PFD), organized by the European Commission, was held on 9 June 2017 in Brussels, the capital of Belgium and the headquarters of the EU. During the meeting that gathered task force members including UCLG ASPAC, FLACMA, PLATFORMA as well as UCLG-MEWA for representing local authorities; the participants discussed the forthcoming PFD calendar, the PFD's knowledge management strategy and the outcomes of the final PFD meeting.

The main topics addressed during the meeting were:

- » invitation of the task team members to the Partnership Forum held on 6-7 July 2017, in Brussels,
- » designation of local government representatives to participate in Multi-Stakeholder PFD meeting to be held on 3-4 October 2017 in Jordan, by UCLG-MEWA; and to hold a task force meeting on 5 October following the forum,
- » holding the PFD European Regional Meeting in Brussels or Ghent of Belgium, in the 3rd week of January 2018,
- » European Commission calls for six PFD membership quotas,

The participants also made a brainstorming on the thematic areas of the 2018 global PFD meeting. It was decided to set a general framework around topics such as gender, resilience and climate change.

2.2.5. The European Union Partnership Forum and Decentralized Partnership Meeting - July 2017

EU Partnership Forum has been held on 6-7 July 2017, with the participation of European and

international local governments, NGOs, human rights organizations, European Union institutions, and development stakeholders. Representing UCLG-MEWA, Salim Korkmaz, UCLG-MEWA General Coordinator, attended the meeting that gathered UCLG World Secretariat and regional sections such as UCLG Africa, UCLG ASPAC and CEMR. Organized by the European Commission Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development, the Forum aims to strengthen the cooperation between local governments and non-governmental organizations, thereby ensuring that these stakeholders take a greater role as governance actors.



Speaking at the panel titled “Forging Synergies on Policy Dialogue in the Middle East” held on the first day of the meeting, General Coordinator Korkmaz stated that “local governments in our region face various problems arising from conflicts and intense immigration” and he further emphasized the importance of direct cooperation of the EU with local governments in the region in this regard. During the session, the participants have also been informed about the Policy Forum on Multi-Stakeholder Development Meeting held on 3-4 October 2017, in Jordan.

The two-day Forum enabled the key roles of local and regional governments to be emphasized in relation to the implementation of the SDGs and the new EU Consensus on Development, which is regarded as the new framework for development cooperation with the EU and member states. The

Forum provided a platform for discussing the importance of establishing partnerships on the implementation of the SDGs and the necessity of cooperation between local governments and NGOs for the localization of the goals.

2.2.6. PFD Middle East and Neighbourhood South Multi-stakeholder Meeting - October 2018

Middle East and Neighbourhood South Multi-stakeholder Meeting took place on 3-4 October in the Dead Sea, Jordan with a focus on changing nature of partnerships and its impacts in the region and in EU development policy.

In the first day of the meeting, participants discussed the main aspects of EU development policy together with the role PFD played in the promotion of CSOs, LAs and other stakeholders in the MENA region. In the meeting, where the adoption of the 2030 Agenda was also assessed in a regional context, participants highlighted the importance of addressing the issues related to resilience, migration, security and human rights. Considering the new nature of global challenges encountered in the achievement of development policies, the meeting provided an important platform to embrace stronger partnerships beyond national governments in coordination with CSOs and LAs.

At the end of the first day, participants underlined the problems faced in the localization process of the 2030 Agenda. Considering the lack of willingness by national governments to engage CSOs in development dialogue, they highlighted the importance of building trust between local governments and CSOs. Besides this, the importance of raising awareness on the role of women and youth, especially in the Arab Region, was addressed in this regard.

Various recommendations were put forth regarding the conclusions of the first-day sessions. Within this regard, participants emphasized the importance of cooperation for further support the move towards democracy and good governance in MENA region in order to fight corruption and abuse of power,

which are endemic in the region. Besides these, it was also highlighted that the eradication of poverty, promotion of sustainable development, investment in young activists should be considered as common goals and shared responsibility.

After the Multi-stakeholder Meeting, the PFD Task Team, which also includes representatives of UCLG-MEWA, gathered on the 5th of October. The PFD Task Team members discussed the outputs of the multi-stakeholder meeting and expressed their views on the strategy and calendar of the PFD for the term 2018-2020.

2.2.7. Policy Forum on Development (PFD) Global Meeting - March 2018

The 6th Policy Forum on Development (PFD) Global Meeting was held on 20-22 March 2018, in Brussels, Belgium. EU development policies were evaluated at a meeting where representatives from NGOs and local authorities from all over the world, representatives of the European Union (EU) institutions and organizations were brought together.

Throughout the year, the relationship between local development, climate change, migration management, economy, and social inequalities has been evaluated. In this context, the European Union contributed to the development of the neighborhood policy, which plans to build on local development with the neighboring countries. Potential challenges and opportunities for a holistic social and economic development at the local level were evaluated and good practice examples were shared. In addition, as a member of the PFD Task Force, UCLG-MEWA has actively participated in the planning and organization of such meetings, encouraging the active participation of the cities in the MEWA Region in the international local development agendas.

Within the scope of the meeting, the issue of migration in the session organized with the cooperation of UCLG-MEWA and PLATFORMA was development, resilience, and security. "Social Inclusion Policies Towards Mandatory Urban

immigrants from Turkey and the Middle East in Lebanon" theme was discussed within the scope of the session. In addition, the relations between the central government and local administrations were also evaluated in these two countries.



During the year, the EU Commission held many sessions on issues such as migration, environmental, social and economic resilience of a city from migration to local development, from environmental issues to corruption. In these sessions, the environmental, social and economic aspects of urban resilience were discussed and examples of good practices were shared.

2.2.8. Policy Forum on Development (PFD) Task Team Meeting - January 2019

Organized by the European Commission Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development, Policy Forum on Development (PFD) meetings continued to be gathered. In this regard, representatives from the member institutions and organizations of PFD Task Team, a unit conducting the preparations of PFD meetings, have met in Brussels on 22 January 2019.



Task Team members, including UCLG-MEWA, evaluated the preparations for the 7th Global PFD Meeting held on 13-15 March 2019. In the meeting where participants also discussed the preparations conducted by UCLG-MEWA as for the determination of panelists to represent local governments during the thematic sessions of the Global Meeting, members have decided that Union of Municipalities of Turkey and Ramallah Municipality will be represented in the sessions on “Voluntary National Reviews” and “Environmental Resilience” respectively.

In this gathering, Task Team members also discussed views and opinions on the update of PFD Charter. As is known, the decision was taken to combine PFD with the EU Partnership Forum, and studies were initiated to make the PFD Charter more inclusive. The meeting has been ended after evaluation of the Joint Synthesis Report to be released by the EU in 2019, and determination of the calendar of the activities for 2019.

2.2.9. Policy Forum on Development (PFD) Global Meeting - March 2019

The 7th Policy Forum on Development (PFD) Global Meeting was held on 13-15 March 2019, in Brussels, Belgium. The event, organized by the European Commission, has gathered representatives from local governments and civil society organizations all over the world, particularly from the countries considered under the EU Neighborhood Policy, to

discuss the EU's development policies.

In the thematic sessions of the event, which was facilitated by the PFD Task Team where UCLG-MEWA is among its members, representatives of the MEWA Region have addressed the participants. Within this context, representative of the Union of Municipalities of Turkey (UMT) has made a presentation in the session on “Voluntary National Reviews”. In this regard, activities conducted in Turkey towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals has been shared. In the session, the role of UMT, as a national local government association, in the process of local governments' contribution to the report has been discussed.

The session on “Environmental Resilience” was among the other panels that the MEWA Region has been represented. In the panel where participants discussed the environmental commitments of the Agenda 2030, Ramallah Municipality, one of the four municipalities with a Resilience Action Plan in MEWA Region, has addressed audiences as a speaker. In addition to the region-specific challenges and opportunities in fighting against climate change, representative of Ramallah Municipality has shared information about the urban resilience strategy of the municipality. Building a multi-stakeholder partnership has been underlined as the main step for developing a strategic plan.

The event, where many other thematic sessions were organized, has ended with a closing session.

2.3. Activities Conducted with Arab Towns Organization (ATO)

In this reporting period, covering the period between 19 April 2016 - 09 July 2019, the activities conducted with Arab Towns Organization, one of our important partners, are gathered under one heading and presented below.

2.3.1. Arab Towns Organization (ATO) Visit

ehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General,

and Randa Al Sabbagh, UCLG-MEWA Project Officer, has paid a visit to Arab Towns Organization on 21-22 August 2016. In the meeting with Ahmad Al-Sabeeh, Secretary General of ATO, Duman has said that UCLG-MEWA wants to cooperate with ATO more. Duman has also stated that "If these two organizations work effectively, cities in the MEWA Region will have an opportunity to be stronger in the international arena. And the voice of these cities will be heard by the whole world." he has added and he invited ATO to participate in UCLG-MEWA meetings.

Both organizations have agreed to cooperate more to represent the cities in the MEWA Region in a more efficient way in the future.

2.3.2. Arab Towns Organization (ATO) 54th Permanent Bureau Meeting

Arab Towns Organization (ATO) has been held its 54th Permanent Bureau Meeting in Nouakchott, Mauritania on 17-18 March 2017. Mayors, ministers, and representatives from more than 20 Arab states participated in the meeting.

Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, and Mohamed H. Almahli, Coordinator of Media and Public Relations Department, participated in the meeting, representing UCLG-MEWA. Secretary General Duman met with Ahmet Al Subaih, ATO Secretary General; Amati Bint Hamadi, Mayor of Nouakchott, host city; Hasan Hamadi, Governor of Grand Comor, Comores; delegations from Tunisia, Palestine, Libya, Sudan, Djibouti, Somalia, Morocco, Bahrain, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Duman, who participated in the administrative meetings as an observer member of ATO, has stated that the cooperation to further the relationship between ATO and UCLG-MEWA would continue. Mr. Duman invited ATO members to also become a member of UCLG-MEWA.

The second day of the meeting continued with technical visits in Nouakchott. Municipality building of Nouakchott, Nouakchott National Museum and other important places in the city were visited by

the delegation.

2.3.3. Arab Towns Organization Culture Working Group Meeting

1st Meeting of Arab Towns Organization (ATO) Culture Working Group was held in on 26-30 November 2017, in Amman, Jordan; under the auspices of the Greater Amman Municipality

Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, participated as an honorary guest and observer in the meeting, which gathered representatives of 26 cities from 11 Arab countries, to discuss the future of culture in their cities. Participants have discussed the future of culture in the Arab cities.

Speaking at the opening session of the meeting, Ahmad Al-Sabeeh said "Cities are the dynamo of development; and cultural studies are the primary tasks of these cities." He further emphasized that local governments should be supported in this regard, and should be provided with all the support needed to be a source of information.

Secretary General Duman gathered with many mayors and bureaucrats. Secretary General Duman came together with many mayors and bureaucrats during the meeting; Yousef Shawarbeh, Mayor of Greater Amman Municipality; Mayors of Jerash, Irbid, Ajlun from Jordan; Mayor of El-Mina Tripoli from Lebanon; Advisor of the Mayor of Djibouti from Djibouti; Mayor of Manama, Bahrain and Mayor of Doha, Qatar.

Secretary General Duman also paid a daily visit to Jerash Municipality, a new member of UCLG-MEWA, upon the invitation of Ali Qoqazeh, Mayor of Jerash. During the meeting, Duman gave brief information on the activities of UCLG-MEWA. They also exchanged ideas and discussed the ways to improve joint projects.

2.3.4. Arab Towns Organization (ATO) Executive Board Meeting

Arab Towns Organization (ATO) 55th Executive Board Meeting and "Smart & Electronic Transformation in

Arab Cities” themed Arab Cities Forum was held on 7-8 April 2018 in Rabat, Morocco.

At the opening of the 55th Session of the Executive Board, the Presidency of the organization passed from Nouakchott to Rabat, and the city of Riyadh was elected as the Vice-President of ATO.



In his speech, Mohamed Sadiki, Mayor of Rabat, has touched upon the success and achievements of ATO and evaluated the programs and activities to encourage Arab cities. In the continuation of the session, participants have evaluated the agenda that included items related to the functioning of the organization and its institutions. In addition, recommendations have been made by taking the necessary decisions adopted at the 18th General Congress.



The second day of the meeting of the Board of Directors of ATO has continued with the Arab Forum workshops of the Smart Cities, which

included the wide participation of Arab countries and the presentation of different experiences on smart cities.

2.3.5. The Forum of Advanced Workshops for Sustainable Cities

Being on the agenda of all countries around the world, the Sustainable Development Goals have been on the agenda of the Arab cities now. With the aim of facilitating development-related efforts of the cities in the Arab geography and advancing these works in line with the 2030 Agenda, the Arab Towns Organization (ATO) has organized “The Forum Of Advanced Workshops For Sustainable Cities” in Istanbul, on 29-30 April 2019. Arch. Dr. Kadir Topbaş, 2010-2016 UCLG President; and Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, has also attended the event. Salem Al Shanfari, Mayor of Dhofar, Oman; Jamal Al Nuaimi, Director of Doha Municipality, Qatar were among the prominent participants of the program hosted many local government representatives from Muscat, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine.

Speaking in the opening of the event, Dr. Topbaş has shared some good practices that he applied in Istanbul during his 13-year tenure, between 2004 and 2017, the longest-serving period for an IMM Mayor. Dr. Topbaş has also underlined the need for more intensive efforts by city managers to incorporate their cities into the list of sustainable cities Following the opening, the program has continued with a workshop entitled **“Smart city Management and Operation Techniques”**.

In its second day, the event has started with the workshop entitled **“The Role of Smart Cities in Achieving Sustainable Development”**, where participants, including UCLG-MEWA, have discussed the ways for stronger partnerships for the creation of smart cities and dissemination of knowledge and experience among the cities in the MEWA region. In this way, the critical points of the framework drawn for cities in the 2030 Agenda have taken their place in this platform.

ATO members visiting Istanbul on the occasion of this two-day program also had the opportunity to visit UCLG-MEWA General Secretariat in Istanbul. Ahmed Al-Subaih, Secretary General of ATO, and

his accompanying delegation have received here information about the structure and operation of the Organization, and the relations with the UCLG and other Sections. Committees in different thematic areas and their activities have carried out in line with the 2030 Agenda were also shared with the delegation. Besides this, participants have discussed the Blockchain technology and methodology within the context of the activities of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Smart Cities seeking to disseminate this new and safe technology. The cooperation between ATO and UCLG-MEWA is expected to intensify in the future, especially in the field of smart cities.

2.4. ASIAN MAYORS FORUM (AMF)

6th Executive Board Meeting and 5th General Assembly of Asian Mayors Forum (AMF) have been held on 29 November-2 December 2018, under the auspices of Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality.

During the AMF Executive Board Meeting on the first day, Dr. Goshtasb Mozafari, Acting Secretary General of AMF, has been elected as the new Secretary General of the organization. Speaking in the opening session, Fatma Şahin, Mayor of Gaziantep & President of UMT & President of UCLG-MEWA, has said, "Asia is a rising a value. We have to come together and exchange ideas more so that we can be involved in building the new world system."

Dr. Goshtasb Mozafari, AMF Secretary General, Sakineh Ashrafi, Deputy Mayor of Tehran the Founding City of AMF, and Feng Yuying, Deputy Mayor of Haikou & 4th Term President of AMF, have touched upon the significance of the meeting and expressed their gratitude to Fatma Şahin, for hosting this event.



After the opening speeches, Mayor Feng Yuying has handed over Presidency of AMF to Fatma Şahin.

"Smart, Resilient and Livable Asian Cities"

Within the scope of the event, various sessions have been organized the theme "Smart, Resilient and Livable Asian Cities." Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, has moderated one of these sessions, titled "the Resilient Asian Cities." In this session, Mehmet Emin Akdoğan, Representative of UN-Habitat Iran Office, Prof. Dr. Abbas Ostad Taqizadeh, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Dr. Rasihk Sagitov, UCLG-Eurasia Secretary General, and Nichola Khamis, Mayor of Beit Jala (Palestine), were the speakers that discussed the issue with different perspectives, and presented examples from Iran, Palestine and the overall Asian Region At the end of Session, Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, has concluded the speeches by highlighting the importance of preparing local action plans on resilience. The event has become a fruitful platform for strengthening the relations of Asian cities and UCLG-MEWA.

2.5. 5th Ordinary General Assembly Meeting of the Union of Turkish World Municipalities

The 5th Ordinary General Assembly Meeting of the Union of Turkish World Municipalities (UTWM), one of the members of UCLG-MEWA, has been held in Istanbul on 2 May 2019. Representatives from 30 different countries have participated in the meeting, where the governing bodies of the new term of the organization were determined. Mohamed Saadie,

UCLG-MEWA Co-President, and Mehmet Duman, Secretary General were among the speakers.



The opening speech of the meeting was made by İbrahim Karaosmanoğlu, the then President of UTWM and the then Mayor of Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality. In his speech; Karaosmanoğlu has stated that UTWM's main aim is to provide services for the people in the city in order for them to have a healthier and happier life and to develop a common culture among the peoples. On this occasion, he has wished success to the new president and the board of directors of the organization.

Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, has also made a greeting speech in the meeting. Secretary General Duman, in his speech, has wished success to the new governing bodies by mentioning the cooperation between UCLG-MEWA and UTWM in the common geography. Following the speeches, the Council Committee has been established and the agenda items of the meeting have been discussed. Erol Kaya, UTWM Founding President, and Istanbul Deputy have been elected as the chairman of the Council Committee and Arben Taravari, Mayor of Gostivar Municipality of Macedonia, and Temraz Taġiev, President of the Union of City Municipalities of Azerbaijan were elected as members of the Council.

In the meeting, Dr. Fahri Solak, UTWM Secretary General, has presented the organization's 2015-2019 Annual Report. Subsequently, Hasan Akcan, member of Supervisory Board, has presented the Audit Report and Yücel Çelikkilek, Vice President for Financial Affairs, has presented the Financial

Report. Submitted reports have been unanimously acquitted by the members of the General Assembly.

After the presentations, the governing bodies of the organization have been selected. As a result of the voting, Uğur İbrahim Altay, Mayor of Konya and UCLG Co-President has been elected as the President of the UTWM. TDBB Administrative Board Members, Supervisory and High Advisory Board Members were also elected in the meeting. Following the General Assembly Meeting, new members of the Board held their first meeting. Mohammed Saadie, UCLG-MEWA Co-President and member of UTWM, indicated that they want the strengthening of relations between the local governments in Lebanon and Turkey.

3- National and International Meetings, Activities and Events

In this period between 19 April 2016 - 09 July 2019, UCLG-MEWA has organized or participated in the meetings organized both at national and international levels.

3.1. "Migration, Culture and Gastronomy Summit" in the MEWA Region

"Migration, Culture and Gastronomy Summit", organized within the framework of 5th Congress of United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia (UCLG-MEWA) have gathered the representatives of central and local governments along with a great number of non-governmental organizations. Moreover, the opening ceremony of "The Resettlement of Refugees Project" which is carried out by WALD, has been organized during the summit.

Fatma Şahin, UCLG-MEWA President, and Mayor of Gaziantep who gave a speech at the opening of the summit, has stated "It is impossible to bear with the dram, the civil war, tears of children in their eyes, mothers losing their children, children left behind without their parents that our neighbors and we have been experiencing for the last 5 years. We have never looked at the events as in a calculative

way. We always looked at the events voluntarily and humanely and with the inspiration, we took from history, we executed the message that our belief and civilization gave us. With the understanding of "the giving hand is better than the one that takes, and the ones who sleep on a full stomach while their neighbor goes hungry are not one of us", we opened our door, dinner table and our heart to our neighbors, to the ones in need, to orphans, and elders".



Mehmet Duman, Secretary General of UCLG-MEWA and WALD Chairman of the Board, highlighting that migration whose history is as old as the history of humanity, is in a close and intense interaction with political, social, economic and cultural developments, and in that sense civilizations are shaped by migration, has also stated that "Migration should be prevented from getting out of control and we should ensure people to live in welfare and stability in their own country. Everyone who bounds countries by migrating between these countries and who strengthens fellowships and friendships actually contributes to the mutual

culture of humanity." Mr. Duman has also stated that the international society should implement a more inclusive strategy which is beyond financial support for Syrian and other refugees.

Touching upon the importance of the dialogue between non-governmental organizations about migration and refugees, Ege Erkoçak, Head of Political Affairs in EU Ministry of Turkey has highlighted that "Resettlement of Refugees Project" is very important in this sense.

After the opening speeches, programs that have been developed for municipalities accepting a great number of Syrian refugees, and works for financing these municipalities have been discussed, during the first panel of "Finance and Cooperation with Multi-Actor For Municipalities Facing Syrian Migrant Flux" moderated by Ege Erkoçak, Head of Political Affairs in EU Ministry of Turkey. During the panel, Virve Vimpari, Deputy Head of Economic and Social Development Section of the Delegation of European Union to Turkey, Lady Habchy, UN-Habitat Lebanon Project Support Officer, Gönül Demirel, Deputy Mayor of Zeytinburnu, Gülfem Kırac Keleş, Director of International Relation Department, Union of Municipalities of Turkey, Simone Giovetti, Project Officer for Middle East at Cités Unies France, and Abdullah Aksoy, Head of Social Affairs Department of Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality have shared their works about this area along with their experiences.

The second session of the summit "The Syrian Migratory Crisis: an Opportunity to Develop Understanding of Urban Migration in the MEWA Region?" moderated by Adrien Licha, UCLG-MEWA Projects Coordinator, took place with the participation of Kenan Gültürk, Deputy Mayor of Bağcılar, Janette Uhlmann, Janette Uhlmann, Senior Operation Manager at Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI), Mohamed Saadieh, President of the Union of Dannieh Municipalities, Meral Açıkgöz, Senior Project Assistant at International Organization for Migration Turkey (IOM), and Murat Akbaş, Field Officer on Mitigating the impact of Syrian crisis on host communities at UNDP. During the session, migration management in cities in the

line of Syrian Migrants was discussed.

“Sustainable Urbanism in the scope of Culture and Gastronomy” has been discussed during the last session of the summit moderated by İsmail Reha Arar, Director General of Merit Hotels Group. During the session, Tülin Ersöz, Head of Istanbul Tourism Workshop in Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, Muzaffer Tunçağ, Member of Municipal Council in Izmir Metropolitan Municipality, Young Hoon Kwaak, President of World Citizens Organization, Sevda Erdoğan, Environment Protection & Control Manager in Alanya Municipality, Anissa Helou, Author, Aylin Oney Tan, Author, and Dr. Mehmet Ragıp Güzelbey, Advisor have contributed to the idea of establishing Sustainable Cities within the scope of Culture and Gastronomy with their presentations.

3.2. International City Councils and Cities Workshop

The event has started with the speech of Prof. Dr. Yedigâr İzmirli, Rector of Aydın University and Mustafa Aydın, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of İstanbul Aydın University.

After the speech of Mustafa Aydın, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of İstanbul Aydın University, Mehmet Duman, Secretary General of UCLG-MEWA and Chairman of the Executive Board of WALD has said “as well as the sources that will be transferred from the municipality and private provincial administrations to the city councils, it is very important that the arrangements would be done to encourage the other stakeholders to contribute” by touching upon the financial distresses of city councils. Saying that “the city councils have to be activated”, Mr. Duman has highlighted the importance of the establishment of the city councils in the metropolitan cities.



İdris Güllüce, former Minister of Environment and Urban Planning who served in the 61st, 62nd and 63rd Governments of Turkish Republic of Turkey, has evaluated the city councils within the framework of city and civilization. Mr. Güllüce has said “Local governments that contribute greatly to the development of political maturity and adoption of democratic understanding are the important institutions that enable the locals to participate directly in the decision making processes through the city councils, which allows for the local democracy.”

After the opening speeches, Prof.Dr.Ruşen KELEŞ, Honorary President of the Congress has given an opening lecture with the title “Local Government and Participation”.

On the first day of the event, conferences took place within the cooperation of İstanbul Aydın University, UNESCO Chair, and WALD. The first session “Migration and the Role of Local Governments in Placing the Refugees” has been moderated by Zeynep Banu Dalaman, Chairperson of Research Centre of Turkey, with the participation of Ahmet Misbah Demircan, Mayor of Beyoğlu, Hasan Akgün, Mayor of Büyükçekmece, Lokman Çağırıcı, Mayor of Bağcılar, Özcan Işıklar, Mayor of Silivri and Temel Karadeniz, Mayor of Küçükçekmece. Following this session, the session titled “Mayors Discuss the City Councils and City Problems” has been held.

The session “Cultural moderated by Prof. Dr. Governance, City and Hatice Deniz Yüksek Migration” on 15th with the presentations on April 2016 has been “Urban Management of

Migration: Examples from Europe” by Doç. Dr. Deniz Şenol Sert; “Going or Staying: Human Trafficking in İstanbul and De Facto Integration Scenes” by Assist. Prof. Dr. Ayşem Biriz Karaçay; and “Right-Based Approach to Participation and Good Governance in the City” by Hakan Ataman.

UCLG-MEWA Special Award to the City Councils

Best practices competition, in which city councils could participate was organized in six categories, within the thematic workshop section of the “International City Councils and Cities Congress”. UCLG-MEWA Special Award has been given to the winners of the competition by Mehmet Duman, Secretary General of UCLG-MEWA. Awarded City Councils:

Category	Winner	Special Award
City Problems and Their Solutions “Overcome it!”	Kocaeli City Council	Gümüşhane City Council
Green Development “Love the Nature, Protect Your Environment!”	Silivri City Council	Silivri City Council
Possible Risks in the Urban Setting & The Crisis Management “Be Ready For Every Possibility!”	Eskişehir City Council	Zeytinburnu City Council
Citizen Rights “City is the Freedom!”	Lüleburgaz City Council	Efeler City Council
Urban Integration Of Disadvantageous Group “Resist To Become Estranged”	Adana City Council	Gaziantep City Council Didim City Council Karesi City Council Kocaeli City Council
Good Governance in the City: “Love Good Governance and Want it!”	Bursa City Council	Buldan City Council

3.3. UCLG-MEWA International Migration Management Summit

“II. International Migration Management Summit” was held in Şanlıurfa, Turkey on November 8-10, 2016, in cooperation with UCLG-MEWA, World Academy for Local Government and Democracy (WALD) and Şanlıurfa Metropolitan Municipality. Many representatives from public institutions, local authorities and civil society organizations working on migration have participated in the Summit.

The program has started with the speech delivered by Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General and WALD Chairman of the Executive Board. Duman pointed out to the global partnerships in his speech and said; “We have to take action decisively to stop this crisis, without any further delay. All humanity has to produce solutions to these problems collectively, within the framework of the common humanitarian

values. This is not a problem of a single country or a single region, this is the problem of the whole of mankind. Mankind only finds a solution to this problem through cooperation. Otherwise, we cannot explain why we were late to solve the problems, to the future generations.”

The Solution Is the Global Fraternity

Güngör Azim Tuna, Governor of Şanlıurfa, who took the floor after Mr. Duman, spoke as follows: “People were forced to migrate, after the incidents in Syria. These migration waves, as is known, affect the whole world. It is now among the global problems. Producing local-oriented solutions to global problems and creating regional cooperation initiatives is of great importance. Yet, the real solution is the global fraternity. We, as a country, have shown our stance on this issue. We always keep our doors wide open for our migrant brothers and sisters, and I

believe that this meeting in this regard will serve as a guide in

“We Know Very Well that Pain Has No Race, Language and Religion”

Nihat Çiftçi, the then Mayor of Şanlıurfa and UCLG-MEWA Committee on Social Inclusion, who took the floor after Governor Tuna, said; “Crises caused by wars threaten peace, welfare and common future of all the people. We, like those present in the Summit, all know very well that pain has no race, language, and religion”. Fatma Şahin, Mayor of Gaziantep and UCLG-MEWA President, who made her speech during the Summit, has touched upon the importance of working together, and said: “we, as Şanlıurfa, Gaziantep, Maraş, Hatay and Mersin, are all parts of a common destiny, and we have shared problems”.



The second day of the Summit was concluded with the sessions, titled “Refugees in the MEWA Region, within the scope of the New Urban Agenda” and “Migration Policies: Syrian Crisis as a Test Area”.

3.4. International Brand Cities and Eurasia Urban Fair

International Brand Cities Summit and Eurasia Urban Fair were organized in Tüyap Fair and Congress Center in Istanbul on 24-27 November 2016, in cooperation with UCLG-MEWA, WALD and Reed Tüyap. Hosted by Reed Tüyap, the summit has lasted two days.



The opening speeches were addressed by Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General and WALD Chairman of Board, Ali Muharremoglu, Reed Tüyap General Manager, Mohammed Saadieh, President of Union of Municipalities of Dannieh and UCLG-MEWA Co-President, and Tahir Akyürek, Mayor of Konya and UCLG Co-President.

“Sustainable and Permanent Solutions for Cities”

Mr. Duman has stated the challenges of cities in their endeavor to become a brand city. Pointing out the Sustainable Development Goals, he added “we need to find sustainable and permanent solutions, not temporary, for our cities. Only in this way our cities will be effective in realization of Sustainable Development Goals.”

Reflections from the first day of the Summit

The Summit has continued with the panels organized after the opening session. The first panel of the first day was titled “The Role of Smart City Management in the City Branding”. The key speaker was Tahir Akyürek in the panel. “Pop-up Practices in the Future Brand Cities” was the second panel and

Sami Divleli, Deputy Mayor of Pendik was the main speaker. The last session was “Transport, Technology, and Communication in the Management of Brand Cities”. The moderator of the session was Sema Yüce, Vice-President of ISSA.

Second Day of the Summit

Hasan Tahsin Usta, Mayor of Gaziosmanpaşa has made the opening speech in the first panel titled “Best Practices of Brand Cities in Turkey and the World” on the second day. “Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency” was the second session of the second day. The opening speech was made by Hasan Gülten, Deputy General Manager of Belbim, the Municipal Data Processing Corporation of Istanbul.

“Effective Water Use, Waste Management and Infrastructure Solutions in the Smart Cities” was the third session in which the opening speech was delivered by Tunç Soyer, Mayor of Seferihisar. The last session of the summit addressed the development, as an important concept for sustainability in cities. Salim Korkmaz, the then UCLG-MEWA Coordinator for Relations with International Organizations has moderated the last session titled “Sustainability and Development in the Cities”.

Brand city concept was discussed in its different dimensions by bringing together local government representatives and technology firms in order to contribute to brand cities in the two-day summit.

3.5. Workshop on Enabling Environment: Rating in Asia and Pacific

2nd Regional Dialogue on City and Local Government Enabling Environment: Rating in Asia and Pacific that is realized as a joint project of UCLG ASPAC, Cities Alliance and UNDP, on 4 April 2017, in Catbalogan, Philippines. Salim Korkmaz, Coordinator of UCLG-MEWA International Relations Department, made a presentation on Iran country report in the workshop that aimed to provide a national legal framework and present the capacities of local governments for the localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Workshop started with the speeches of D. Ajay Suri, Cities Alliance Regional Advisor, Saswat Bandyopadhyay, Regional Coordinator, and Bernardia Irawati Tjandradewi, UCLG ASPAC Secretary General. Bandyopadhyay was the coordinator and moderator of all the sessions. Detailed information was given on the outputs of the project and country ratings were presented. The ways to standardize the ratings for the countries were also discussed.

After the workshop, Mayors from Philippines and ASPAC region made presentations on climate change and SDGs at the Asia Pacific Conference on Creating Connections for Sustainable and Resilient Societies on 5 April. Moreover, public institutions that are working on climate change in the Philippines and international organizations such as Cities Alliance, and UNDP also presented their activities. Stephany Uy-Tan, Mayor of Catbalogan hosted a reception at the end of the Conference.

3.6. 2nd Annual Peer-to-Peer Learning Workshop of the Mediterranean Host Municipalities Learning Network

The second annual event of the CMI Host Municipalities Learning Network was held on 9-12 May 2017 in Beirut, Lebanon, under the auspices of the Government of Lebanon, in partnership with the World Bank, UN-Habitat, the German Technical Cooperation (GIZ), and UCLG-MEWA. Various representatives of host local governments, national governments, private sector and experts of humanitarian aid associations from Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey participated in the event.

Representing UCLG-MEWA; Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality, UCLG-MEWA President, Adana Metropolitan Municipality and Sultanbeyli Municipality have participated in and contributed to the workshop.

The participants discussed strengthening the local economy and creating new job opportunities to increase the welfare of the refugees and the locals.

The workshop included four thematic sessions titled

“Creating job opportunities for host and refugee communities”, “Stimulating entrepreneurship and private investments”, “City and neighborhood profiles and strategies: a tool for providing a solid platform for joint programming, collaboration and enhanced role of local governments”, and “Strengthening social cohesion as a key component of local economic development.”

The event provided an opportunity for capacity-building on promoting entrepreneurship and attracting private investors, improving the matching activities of labor supplies and demands, strengthening social cohesion by increasing the housing and urban resources; and reviewed the annual activities of the Network, on solid waste management and social cohesion.

During the event, the participants acquired an opportunity to participate in technical workshops and reviewed the annual activities of the network, on solid waste management and social cohesion. Sultanbeyli Municipality made a presentation during the workshop, on the Refugee Community Center that was established with the support of the municipality, as an example of good practice.

On 11 May 2017, the participants have made a technical visit to Saida in the company of Mayor Mohammad Seoudi, co-organized by UN-Habitat and the Saida Municipality. Within the framework of the visit, participants have visited the old town of Saida, including a restaurant which provides training and employs women with different nationalities, and the “Outreach and Leadership Academy”, which provides professional training and office space for entrepreneurs and several initiatives. The visit ended with a densely populated building hosting 1200 Syrians in the outskirts of the city.

3.7. Conference on “Refugee Friendly Municipalities”

Conference on “Refugee-Friendly Municipalities” took place on 24 May 2017 in Ankara, Turkey and organized by QUDRA Program and Association for Solidarity with Asylum Seekers (ASAM), with the support of UCLG-MEWA. Many representatives

from local government and non-governmental organizations participated in the conference. Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, made a speech at the plenary session to emphasize the importance and visibility of local governments on immigration issues. In this regard, UCLG-MEWA has advocated the establishment of structures such as refugee committees within the Citizen Assemblies together with the establishment of immigration units in all municipalities in the region.



During the conference, participants discussed the possible cooperation opportunities for municipalities

and panels were organized on “challenges and good practices”, “successful strategies and innovative ideas” and “forward thinking and being prepared”.

3.8. International City and Civil Society Organizations Summit

Held on 20-22 October 2017, in Istanbul, Turkey, under the auspices of Esenler Municipality, member of UCLG-MEWA, the Summit have gathered 192 CSO representatives and academics from 60 countries.

During the Summit, which was held under the High Patronage of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey, the panelists have made a total of 157 presentations under 17 themes. CSO representatives and academics from 60 countries have shared their experiences with the participants of the Summit, the Science Board of which was presided by Prof. Dr. Hamza Ateş. The Summit has also become a mutual knowledge and experience sharing platform, by providing an opportunity for face-to-face talks between participants, through the stands of the participating CSOs.

Held on 19 October 2017 for the opening of the Summit, Borsa Istanbul Gong Ceremony where is the first Gong Ceremony organized for NGOs. Himmet Karadağ, Borsa Istanbul Chairman of the Executive Board, Mehmet Tevfik Göksu, Mayor of Esenler, Prof. Dr. Mahmut Ak, Rector of Istanbul University, Yusuf Tülün, Chairman of the Foundation for Science Dissemination (İlim Yayma Cemiyeti) and Oscar Huerta Melchor, representative of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), were among the participants of the Ceremony.

In the second day of the Summit, following the Special Session which was honored by the participation of the President of the Republic of Turkey, UCLG-MEWA held a panel on NGOs and Social Responsibility Management, under the theme “Management and NGOs.” During the panel, representatives of various institutions have made presentations on effective management of NGOs, efficient use of financial and human resources, ways of doing more work with limited resources and thus

reaching more people. Mürsel Sabancı, President of the Karesi Citizens’ Assembly from Turkey; Hasan Soygüzel, Chairman of the European Union Policies Institute and Secretary General of the Yalova Citizens’ Assembly from Turkey; Abdelaziz El Habti, President of the Chefchaouen Local Development Union from Morocco and Hijazi Rishiq, member of the Palestinian Vision Organization from Palestine have participated in the session moderated by Salim Korkmaz, UCLG-MEWA General Coordinator.

Within the context of the Summit, a panel on Refugees in the Urban Space and NGOs was organized by Vehbi Koç Foundation and MireKoç under the theme “Immigrants, Refugees and NGOs.” UCLG-MEWA made a presentation on “Migration Management in Intermediary Cities: MEWA Region” in the session held with the participation of the representatives of CSOs in Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey. The presentation has highlighted the role of intermediary cities (medium-sized cities) in the MEWA region in migration management, acting as a buffer zones; with a specific reference to domestic and international migration in these cities.

Speaking at the closing session, Prof. Dr. Hamza Ateş, Chairman of Science Board of the Summit, has underlined the role of NGOs for creating a more livable world. Following this, it was shared that the Final Declaration of the Summit will be shared.

3.9. Public Transportation Excellence Index Training

For ensuring the implementation of “Public Transportation Excellence Index” (TUMENDEKS), which was developed by Istanbul Electricity Tramway and Tunnels General Directorate (IETT), in the MEWA Region; UCLG-MEWA organized a three-day training program on 19-20 April, for the representatives of local governments from Jordan, Palestine, Morocco, and Turkey.

This training is important; in terms of setting the infrastructure and appropriate investment criteria in transportation systems, creating operation and efficiency criteria; determining the strategies to be followed in order to reduce the carbon emissions

caused by transportation by the subjects such as environmental sensitivity and energy criterion in transportation systems and appropriate technology selection criteria.

Reduction of carbon emissions from transportation may contribute to the construction of a resilient city in combating the negative effects of global warming. In this context, in order to reduce the urban fragilities in the environment, determining the energy usage level of the fossil source in the city and measuring the emission amounts have an important place. In addition to environmental resilience, infrastructural resilience of the city can be increased with integrated and intelligent transportation destinations developed. In addition, a safe and quality public transport service can also help to increase social resilience at the local level. TUMENDEKS training has been organized in order to create the necessary database which is a prerequisite for the realization of all these objectives. Therefore, UCLG-MEWA has directly contributed to urban resilience studies.

3.10. East Mediterranean International Travel and Tourism Exhibition (EMITT) 2018

As one of the five largest tourism exhibitions in the world, the 23rd International Mediterranean Travel and Tourism Exhibition (EMITT) took place on 25-28 January 2018, at Tüyap Fair Convention and Congress Center in Istanbul, Turkey, with the participation of about 55 thousand participants from 80 countries; bringing Turkey and the world tourism sector together.



Prof. Dr. Numan Kurtulmuş, Culture and Tourism Minister of Turkey, Vasip Sahin, Governor of Istanbul, Mevlüt Uysal, Mayor of Istanbul, Taleb Rifai, Former President of United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), Oya Narin, President of the Association of Tourism Investors, and Michael Frenzel, President of German Tourism Industry Federal Association, were among the participants of the Exhibition.

A new conference program creating new relations and network opportunities for visitors besides providing various industry-specific panels and talks has been brought into action. Some of the topics that have been discussed during the Exhibition were: challenges of the tourism market in Turkey, travel trends and information, gastronomy tourism its use for the promotion of cities, the future of travel agencies, the rise of online sales in the emerging markets, and many more.

Panel on Gastronomy and Awareness

Moderated by Gürkan Boztepe, Chairman of the Gastronomy Tourism Association; the “Panel on Gastronomy and Awareness” took place on 27 January and hosted Ali Akgün, Coordinator of the Food Expropriation and Awareness Project in the Tourism Businesses, Dr. Aydın Duygu, Nutrition Specialist, Mine Ataman, Bread Expert & Nutrient Futurist, Müge Boz, Actress, Pinar Özçaltepe, Chairman of GTD Education Committee, and Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, as speakers.

In his speech, Secretary General Duman has stated

that UCLG-MEWA had an intensive global agenda ahead, and the most important of this agenda is the Sustainable Development Goals, adopted in 2015; adding on that these 17 goals are carrying great importance in terms of gastronomy tourism.

Mr. Duman underlined that traveling for a gastronomy experience is becoming a global trend, which highlights the impact of gastronomy tourism on sustainable development.

During his speech, Mr. Duman has also mentioned that 4 of the 26 cities that are part of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network [Zahle, Lebanon (2013)- Gaziantep, Turkey (2015)- Rasht, Iran (2015)- Hatay, Turkey (2017)] are located in the MEWA region. He has also added that UCLG-MEWA is introducing this network to its members and encouraging them to join.

“We Are Ready for Initiatives of Cooperation on Gastronomy Tourism”

Secretary General Duman has mentioned that UCLG-MEWA is playing a fostering role in creating awareness in the MEWA region through its Committees on Culture and Tourism and to mobilize local action, by creating awareness. In line with this, Mr. Duman has added that UCLG-MEWA organized the Summit on Migration, Culture, and Gastronomy on 19-21 April 2016, under the auspices of Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality; and UCLG-MEWA Committee on Tourism Meeting on Sustainable Tourism, on 1-2 August 2017, under the auspices of Konya Metropolitan Municipality, to discuss the impact of gastronomy tourism on creating brand cities.

Secretary General Duman concluded his speech saying that gastronomy tourism plays an important role in sustainable development and that UCLG-MEWA is ready to develop cooperation on these issues.

As it is known, there has been a significant increase in the number of Turkish municipalities preparing a climate action plan in recent years and the issue of combating climate change has become one of the priority areas of the municipalities in Turkey.

3.11. V. Carbon Summit

V. Carbon Summit, for which UCLG-MEWA is one of the supporting institutions, was held by the Sustainable Production and Consumption Association (SÜT-D) on 26 April 2018, in Istanbul Technical University.

The Summit, which was held with the main theme of “Climate Finance,” focused on the current carbon markets at the local and global levels and discussed the share of the industrial sector in the climate change issue. During the Summit, ideas were exchanged with all stakeholders for the development of low carbon climate policies. The members of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Environment were mobilized to participate in the summit and they acquired information on the summit announcements and the final report.

One of the indicators of a resilient city is the efforts to prevent the risks that may occur in the city due to climate change. For this reason, the reduction of carbon emissions and the development of low carbon industrial policies, especially in the industrial sector, have an important role in the development of environmental resilience of a city. In particular, the construction of an environment-friendly and resilient industrial development in the MEWA Region, where UCLG-MEWA operates, and the majority of the developing countries, can play a role in reducing environmental vulnerabilities. In addition, the eco-friendly industrial development will also contribute to sustainable economic development at the local level, thus reducing the economic fragility of the city. For all these reasons, UCLG-MEWA actively participated in the event and mobilized its members in this sense.

3.12. Training on “Wastewater and Municipal Water Systems Management” for Palestinian Municipalities

UCLG-MEWA, Turkey Union of Municipalities (TBB), Istanbul Water and Sewerage Administration (ISKI) and Pendik Municipality organized technical training programs on 1-5 May 2018i for the municipalities in Palestine. Technical staff from 22 municipalities and

representatives of the Palestinian Water Authority participated in the training organized under the heading of “Municipal Water Systems Management” and “Wastewater Management.”



Establishment of the treatment systems required for access to sustainable wastewater management in education and the selection of the appropriate technology to contribute to the solution of the problem of climate change have been emphasized. Participants had been informed about Subscriber Works, Management of Drinking Water and Wastewater Networks, Methods of Combating Water Losses, Intelligent Grid Applications, Operation of Wastewater Treatment Plants and Solution Proposals for Problems in Facility Operation.



Prior to the training, a needs analysis survey was conducted for municipalities in Palestine, and the subject of water and sewerage was determined as a result of this analysis. In this study and in the training, the project ideas of the participants in the study have enabled the local governments in Palestine to identify the areas of cooperation and determine their needs in development. At the same

time, in line with the specialization training in water and wastewater, the local capacities in Palestine have been contributed to the local development in the country by increasing the technical capacities of this area.

3.13. Connective Cities Project Workshop

The Solid Waste Management Project Workshop was organized in Cologne, Germany on 10-11 October 2018 in order to implement the appropriate project ideas listed during the 2017 cooperation in cooperation with UCLG-MEWA and Connective Cities and to discuss the financing models appropriate to these projects.

Throughout the program, project ideas have been developed on the reduction of carbon emissions from waste handling and disposal, transferring the necessary awareness to achieving sustainable waste management and developing appropriate financing models. Through the five different project groups created in accordance with the project ideas gathered from Turkish and German municipalities, five projects were finalized at the end of the second day. In addition, a draft timetable for the sub-activities of the projects was prepared within each project group. For the next process, these projects, which are outlined, will be completed and the project will be submitted to the appropriate platforms.





Within the scope of the program, the issue of expanding infrastructures commensurate with the number of municipalities and migrants experiencing migration management problems has been discussed. The necessary solutions for the management of the increasing amount of waste along with the migration were also discussed.

With the arrival of refugees in the cities, there has been an increase in the service areas of local administrations especially in waste management, this situation has directed the working municipalities which do not meet the current demands with their limited opportunities to search for different solutions. In particular, the workshop program for municipalities with problems related to the number of refugees involved has provided participants with a different perspective on the appropriate financing methods for waste management and contributing to the cost reduction in the local economy.

3.14. 9. Türktay

Held in Ankara on 17-18 October 2018, 9th TÜRKİTAY- All Aspects of Waste Management Panel in Turkey, brought together nearly 200 industry representatives on the subject of waste management in Turkey.



The event is a common platform for the public and private sector to explain low-carbon waste management and recycling practices. In the panel where UCLG-MEWA was one of the supporting institutions, the advantages of having sustainable waste management over the concept of circular economy and zero waste strategies are given to cities in combating climate change.

The panel, which was held with the main theme of “Waste in Economy, Economy in Waste,” allowed participants to share good practices on the contribution of sustainable waste management to the economy, providing a perspective to the participants on developing appropriate financing models for waste management.

3.15. MEXICO Culture 21 International Awards

UCLG Mexico City Culture 21 International 3. Award Ceremony between 18-20 October 2018 has been organized in Mexico City and UCLG. The objective of the “International Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21” is to recognize leading cities and individuals that have distinguished themselves through their contribution to culture as a key dimension in sustainable.

This year, in the category of City/Regional and Local Administration, ‘The Sustainable City of Lyon: the Charter of Cultural Cooperation’ and ‘Common Seongbuk Artist Roundtable: Local Culture Governance’ won the award.



The Sustainable City of Lyon: the Charter of Cultural Cooperation' is a policy agenda and work program that aims at mobilizing cultural public services and making Lyon as a sustainable city, while the 'Common Seongbuk Artist Roundtable: Local Culture Governance' project consists of artists, city dwellers and different groups at the local level. As a cultural governance organization, this network works actively basis of cultural democracy, friendship and cooperation and respect for cultural differences.

International Seminar on Cultural Rights and Peace in the City

Within the concept of International Award UCLG - Mexico City - Culture 21, the International Conference on Cultural Rights and Peace in the City was held in cooperation with Mexico City and UCLG Committee on Culture on 19-20 October 2018. Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, has made a presentation on 'Heritage, Citizenship, and Culture of Peace' Seminar. In his presentation, Secretary General Duman has highlighted the cultural values of the MEWA Region and underlined the efforts of UCLG-MEWA for the protection of peace in the city.

At the end of the event, which offered an important opportunity to share ideas and experiences on issues such as culture, heritage, public space, peace supporting, education, migration, the building of citizenship and the right to the city, the Mexico City Declaration of Culture and Peace was adopted.

3.16. 3rd International Congress on Urban Studies

UCLG-MEWA participated in 3rd International

Congress on Urban Studies, held on 26-28 October 2018 in Strasbourg, France. Mayors and academics have participated in the Congress and also the Ideal City Award Ceremony was held within the context of the event.

At the event, good practice examples were shared in cities that improved the quality of life. In addition, academic papers have been presented on issues that concern the sustainability of the city, the city, and the urban life, from migration to the urban landscape, from ecology to city security practices. In line with its objective of reducing the economic, social and environmental vulnerabilities of the cities in its region, UCLG-MEWA mobilized its members to participate in the event.



Within the scope of the Congress, a session on migration management was realized. In the session, two separate presentations were made on migrants' difficulties and income insufficiency and opportunities for migration in the MEWA Region. In the presentations held within the scope of the Congress, the issues affecting the issue of "difficulties faced by migrants" and "lack of income" which are under the Migration and Compliance item of the strategic plan were considered.

3.17. Kartepe Summit 2018: "Migration, Refugees, and Humanity"

The Kartepe Summit took place on 26-28 October 2018 in Kartepe, Kocaeli. The Summit, which consisted of 2 Opening Sessions, 2 Workshops, 48 Panels, 12 Academic Sessions and 11 Case Critical Meetings, was held with the participation of

academics, intellectuals, representatives of NGOs, representatives of regional and international organizations.



Within the scope of the Summit, a session on “Syrian Crisis and Migration Management Experiences” was held by UCLG-MEWA. The theme of the session was shared with the participants the information and experiences of participants from different countries including governors, mayors, and academics.

At the city level, the social and economic fragilities of the migrants were evaluated and the social tensions were reduced and the social resilience of the cities was discussed. In addition, issues related to the social resilience of the city, such as the establishment of adequate employment opportunities at the local level and the possibility of the migrants to benefit from these opportunities, the development of rights-based immigration policies, the construction of social inclusion and the prevention of xenophobia, were discussed.

On the one hand, the population that comes with the migration means increasing the areas of service and responsibility at the local and national level, while on the other hand, it means new business lines created by refugees in line with their socio-economic profiles. Together with the new business areas established, the tourism potential of a different culture is created within the country and this situation strengthens the city and therefore the country tourism. In the sessions carried out within the scope of the program, the contribution of migration to sustainable development has been processed and a different perspective has been

presented to the participants in converting the challenges into opportunities.

3.18. Nouvens Smart Mobility Workshop

UCLG-MEWA has continued to follow up the latest developments in its working areas. In this regard, we have participated in the Smart Mobility Workshop organized by the NOVUSENS Institute, on 17 January 2019, in Istanbul, Turkey.



Supported by the UK Prosperity Fund within the context of the “Intelligent Mobility UK-Turkey Project”, the workshop aimed to strengthen the cooperation between relevant organizations in two countries. Speaking in the opening session of the workshop, Andrew Price, Director of the UK Prosperity Fund, emphasized that they sought to develop new partnerships and job opportunities with this project. In the meeting where relevant firms, SMEs, academics, and civil society and local government representatives came together, also provided a platform to analyze the smart mobility market in Turkey.

3.19. Visit to Istanbul Development Agency

UCLG-MEWA continue its visits to partner institutions in order to improve cooperation and bilateral relations with the stakeholders. Within this context, UCLG-MEWA delegation paid a visit to the Istanbul Development Agency and came together with Fatih Pişin, Acting Secretary-General of the Agency, on 7 February 2019. Parties have discussed how to develop partnerships that can mobilize the local potential of UCLG-MEWA member

municipalities in Istanbul and how to transform this potential into a common value for Istanbul.



The Agenda 2030, at the center of all activities of UCLG-MEWA, was the main topic of the meeting. Following the brief by Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary-General, on the 17 Global Goals, parties have discussed how to localize these goals jointly. Within this context, Salim Korkmaz, UCLG-MEWA General Coordinator, has mentioned the Pilot Project on Mapping the SDGs in Turkey. Parties also discussed how to disseminate this Pilot Project among the municipalities in Istanbul.

The UCLG-MEWA Delegation also received information about the support mechanisms of the Agency. In the meeting, parties acknowledged that each work will contribute to the development of the region on a macro scale and the cooperation between UCLG-MEWA and Istanbul Development Agency is of great importance in this regard. The meeting has concluded after a detailed discussion on how to collaborate particularly under the activities of UCLG-MEWA Committee on the Smart Cities and UCLG-MEWA Committee on Urban Mobility.

3.20. World Cities Congress'19

The fourth World Cities Congress İstanbul'19 that was organized between 13-15 March 2019 in Yenikapı Eurasia Exhibition and Art Center. The Congress, hosted by Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, has gathered more than 140 speakers from 12 countries and 120 cities, under 9 sessions. The event provided

a platform for the presentation of new technologies on the disaster, health, security, agriculture, and energy and many other areas.

Congress started with the opening speeches by the Presidency of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, and Minister of T.C. Innovation and Technology Ministry. On the second day, the session "Smart for Sustainability", which was moderated by Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary-General, took place. Stating that population increase in the urban areas made necessary to develop technology-based solutions for the efficient use of resources, provision of accessible urban transportation and waste management, Secretary-General Duman has emphasized the efforts of UCLG-MEWA towards inheriting more livable cities to the next generations. Souad Abdurrahim, the first women mayor of Tunisia, the capital of Tunisia; Sabha Sobhani, UNDP Global Private Sector Consultant who has significant experience in the development resource mobilization of the private sector; Dr. Mehmet Güllüoğlu, President of AFAD, prominent with his volunteer activities for the health and humanitarian aid; and Frans-Anton Vermast, Amsterdam Intelligent City Strategy Consultant and International Smart City Representative have delivered their speeches on the basis of the concept of sustainability. Following the speeches, sessions have continued with the interactive participation of attendees through questions and answers.



On the last day of the program; The Energy, Data, and Entrepreneurship sessions were held and the

Congress ended following the 3rd Smart City Idea and Project Competition Award Ceremony.

3.21. 1st International Conference on Local Climate Action

Within the context of the efforts towards fighting against climate change in Turkey, one of MEWA Region countries, 1st International Conference on Local Climate Action was held on 15-16 March 2019, in Antalya. Organized under the auspices of Turkish Ministry of Environment and Urbanization and within the program called Enhancing Required Joint Efforts on Climate Action Project (İklimIN), the event has hosted representatives from Ministry, Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention On Climate Change (UNFCCC), UN-Habitat and European Environment Agency. Representatives from Turkish municipalities participated in the meeting too.

In the sessions of the event, panelists have shared their best practices on disaster management, low carbon transportation, green infrastructure, energy, and agriculture. Counting on the notion of inclusivity, participants have also discussed the role of women, media, and youth in combating with climate change. Local finance opportunities were also discussed during the meeting. Speaking in the opening session of the meeting, Prof. Dr. Mehmet Emin Birpınar, Deputy Minister and Turkey's Chief Negotiator for Climate Change, has stated that the Ministry will continue to support climate-related efforts, especially preparation of climate action plans.

3.22. Intermediary Cities (I-Cities) Works

In this working period between 19 April 2016 - 09 July 2019, events and joint activities conducted as related to the i-cities are indicated below.

3.22.1. Intermediary Cities Preparatory Meeting & International Historical Cities Forum

UCLG I-Cities Forum organized a preparatory meeting in the city of Chefchaouen, Morocco, on 24 April, to discuss the World I-Cities Forum

to take place in 2018, and the regional forums to be organized in 2017. The meeting gathered representatives from UCLG World Organization, UCLG Sections, along with local organizations and hosts of regional fora. Salim KORKMAZ, representing UCLG-MEWA Secretariat, made a presentation on the draft agenda of I-Cities MEWA Regional Forum, held in Nevşehir, Turkey on 21-22 September 2017.



After the one-day meeting in Chefchaouen, the participants were transferred to Larache, Morocco, for International Forum of the Medinas. 5th Mediterranean Network of Medinas and Heritage Development, the municipality of Larache, and the Provincial Council of Larache organized the fifth edition of the International Forum of the Medinas between 27 and 29 April 2017 at Larache, in Morocco. The theme of this year's meeting was "Sustainable Heritage: Funding and Governance". The meeting focused on the financing of projects in cities as well as projects for the enhancement of tangible and intangible heritage.

Mohamed SAADIEH, UCLG-MEWA Co-President, and Salim KORKMAZ, UCLG-MEWA General Coordinator made their speeches in the opening ceremony on 28 April. General Coordinator KORKMAZ also made a presentation during the Session titled "Sustainable Heritage and Good Governance" on 29 April and provided details on the ways the heritage is managed in the MEWA region.

3.22.2. African Regional Forum of Intermediary Cities (I-Cities)

Under the High Patronage of Mr. Amadou Gon COULIBALY, Prime Minister of Ivory Coast, the Working Group on Intermediary Cities (CGLU), with the collaboration of Union of Cities and Towns of Ivory Coast (UVICOCI) and Odienné Municipality, organized the “African Regional Forum of Intermediary Cities” which took place in Odienné on 5-6 May 2017.

The event gathered approximately 150 participants representing local authorities, experts, civil society national and continental governments from African countries, including Morocco and Lebanon from the Middle East region.



The opening session started by an introduction of Odienné city and Ivory Coast through a video, the speeches of the Mayor of Odienné, the President of the Union of the Cities and Towns of Ivory Coast (UVIVOCI), the President of the Association of the Regions of Ivory Coast (ARDCI), the President of the Council of Territorial Communities (CCT of UEMOA), President of the UCLG I-Cities Working Group and Mayor of Chefchaouen, Representative of the UCLG Africa President and Mayor of Dakar (Senegal), the Governor of the District of Abidjan representative, Representative of the Minister of Interior and Security (MEMIS) and the Minister of Transport of Ivory Coast, representing the Prime Minister of Ivory Coast.

The program consisted of four sessions, has included the following headings:

- » **First Session: The situation of Urbanization & Human Development of African Intermediary Cities;**

- » **Second Session: Vertical Dialogue in Governance for Intermediary Cities;**

- » **Third Session: Criteria to be put in place for the evaluation of the implementation of the global agendas;**

- » **Fourth Session: The President of the UCLG I-Cities Working Group, Mr. Mohamed SEFIANI, stressed on the rapid urbanization in Intermediary Cities; 50% of the world's population will be in Intermediary Cities by 2030 which will increase to 70 % by 2050.**

Participants shared their contributions to propose solutions and strategies for the development of African Intermediary Cities.

Before the end of the Forum, municipalities from Africa, Morocco and Lebanon signed cooperation agreements.

Before the end of the Forum, municipalities from Africa, Morocco and Lebanon signed twinning agreements.

3.22.3. Regional Forum of Intermediary Cities in the Middle East and West Asia (MEWA)

Intermediary Cities Middle East and West Asia (MEWA) Regional Forum took place on 21-22 September 2017, in Hacı Bektaş Veli University Culture and Congress Center, under the auspices of Nevşehir Municipality, in Turkey.



The Forum brought together more than 200 participants, including local government representatives,

academics, NGO representatives, local government experts and high-level participants across the world, including Mpho Parks Tau, President of the United Cities and Local Governments World Organization (UCLG) and South African Local Government Association (SALGA); Emilia Saiz, Deputy Secretary General of UCLG; Mohamed Saadieh, UCLG-MEWA Co-President; Adnan Köşker, UCLG-MEWA Treasurer; Frederic Vallier, Secretary General of Council of European Municipalities and Region (CEMR); Mohamed Sefiani, President of Intermediary Cities UCLG Forum; Firdaous Oussidhoum, Coordinator of Intermediary Cities UCLG Forum; İlhami Aktaş, Governor of Nevşehir; Hayrettin Güngör, Secretary General of the Union of Municipalities of Turkey; Hasan Ünver, Mayor of Nevşehir; and Mazhar Bağlı, Rector of Nevşehir Hacı Bektaş Veli University. Speaking at the opening session of the program that addressed the concept of intermediary cities from different thematic areas, President Tau emphasized the importance of intermediary cities and their role on enhancing the quality of life of communities, national economies, and international environment. Noting that the successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda can be achieved through acquiring a different perspective on urbanization, President Tau put forward a suggestion to leave the conventional differentiation between rural-urban and to make investments aiming to explore the potential of intermediary cities.

Speaking in the opening session of the meeting, Secretary General Duman has noted that i-cities are the key actors of sustainable development. Indicating that currently, 36% of the world urban population lives in intermediary cities, Secretary General Duman stated that in today's urban system where several other characteristics of cities are taken into consideration besides their physical size, intermediary cities have achieved a different position from the metropolises and smaller cities for reasons other than their scale. He further emphasized that intermediary cities, therefore, have become actors which cannot be ignored for ensuring balanced and sustainable urbanization.

As the host of the Forum, Hasan Ünver, Mayor of Nevşehir, said in his opening speech that "Intermediary cities have begun to make their voice heard around the world. We have shown that when intermediary cities have sufficient opportunities of economy and employment, people will not prefer to live in metropolises with urban sprawl, and they will have a chance to live under good conditions in their hometowns. We are working to attract the attention of the world on this issue."

During the two-day Forum, participants were presented with thematic sessions on "Migration Management in Intermediary Cities", "Contribution of Intermediary Cities to the Overall National Development", "Branded Intermediary Cities", and "Localization of Sustainable Development Goals in Intermediary Cities." During the first session on "Migration Management in Intermediary Cities," the participants analyzed the function of intermediary cities as buffer zones in the MEWA region, among the most affected by the intensive migration influxes for various reasons. In the second session titled "Contribution of Intermediary Cities to the Overall National Development," the panelists had a discussion on incentives for intermediary cities and the role of these cities in providing a fair and balanced national development. The third session on "Branded Intermediary Cities" focused on strengthening the sense of belonging in intermediary cities, while also presenting model practices to participants. In the last session of the Forum on "Localization of Sustainable Development Goals in Intermediary Cities," the panelists reviewed the role of intermediary cities in implementing and monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, participants made discussions on the need to increase local awareness and to strengthen institutional capacity within intermediary cities.

Aiming at bringing together the cities of the region and making their voices heard louder within the global agenda, UCLG-MEWA Intermediary Cities Declaration was presented following the closing session and will serve as an important reference for intermediary cities in this sense.

Within the context of the Forum, the 2nd regional forum following the Intermediary Cities Africa Regional Forum held in May 2017, and in consideration of the process leading to the Intermediary Cities World Forum to be held in 2018, Protocols of Understanding were signed between the local governments of Ivory Coast, Turkey, Morocco and Palestine. The Protocols are regarded as “goodwill statements” among municipalities and serve as facilitators for connecting municipalities willing to sign a Sister-City Protocol in the forthcoming period. The signatories of the Protocol will gain an opportunity to strengthen cooperation and coordination for the implementation of the Declaration, to develop joint projects and to ensure a mutual experience-sharing among themselves.

3.22.4. Intermediary Cities Europe Continental Forum

Organized by UCLG, Council of European Cities and Regions (CEMR) and Terrassa Municipality; Intermediary Cities Europe Continental Forum took place on 20-21 November 2017, in Terrassa, Spain, the pilot Intermediary City (I-City) for the European Region.

During the opening session of the Forum; Amadeu Aguado I Moreno, Deputy Mayor of Terrassa; Mohamed Sefiani, Mayor of Chefchaouen & President of the UCLG I-Cities Forum; and Carlos Martínez Minguez, Mayor of Soria & Vice-President of UCLG and CEMR highlighted the value carried by I-Cities with their strong identity, culture, and history.



The event continued with the second session focusing on city branding strategies. Following the keynote speech of Prof. Jordi de San Eugenio, Vic University, touching upon the geographically varied model cities developing successful branding strategies around the world, Juan Carlos Belloso, representing Futureplaces, has made a presentation on the branding activities conducting to protect Teresa's assets as an intermediary city model.

Following the introductory session on I-Cities by Firdaous Oussidhoum, Coordinator of UCLG I-Cities Forum, three thematic workshops were held to discuss the positioning of I-Cities from the perspective of global agendas and the localization process; to evaluate the cultural and economic aspects of branding for building a sustainable bridge between cities and their residents; and to create a learning dialogue between I-Cities and metropolises in their vicinity.

During the workshop on “Dialogue Between City & Citizenship,” Tuğçe Karataş, Project Officer at UCLG-MEWA International Relations Department, made a presentation on the successful communication strategies and future plans developed and implemented by I-Cities in the MEWA region, to create a stronger bond with their respective residents.

In the second day of the Forum, two representatives of Bilbao Municipality, President of UCLG Committee of Digital and Knowledge-Based Cities, made a presentation on their ongoing works for transforming the long experience and history of their city to knowledge and methodology.

During the last session of the Forum, the previously-held I-Cities Africa Regional Forum (5-6 May 2017 - Odienne, the Ivory Coast) and I-Cities MEWA Regional Forum (21-22 September 2017 - Nevşehir, Turkey) and their output documents were summarized. Following the contributions and inputs of the participants; the discussion went on with the conclusions and agreement on next steps to be taken till the I-Cities World Forum, to be held on 5- July 2018, in Chefchaouen, Morocco.

3.22.5. Mapping Workshop of Intermediary Cities - Nevşehir & Urla

Within the framework of the preparations towards the World Forum of I-Cities held on 5-7 July 2018, in Morocco; two mapping workshops were held in Turkey's two model cities, Nevşehir and Urla. The first workshop was held in Nevşehir on 1-4 February 2018, and the second workshop was held in Urla on 15-18 March 2018, in cooperation with UCLG Forum of Intermediary Cities and UNESCO Chair in Intermediary Cities and Global Urbanization.



The workshops, which lasted four days in each municipality, were carried out with the participation of the municipal staff working in the units related to the plan and project units of the municipalities. The workshop programs have enabled the adoption of the i-cities criteria in the relevant cities by the representatives of municipalities, and non-governmental organizations. In addition to this, the workshops enabled cities to create their own agenda and determine the priority areas of activity of cities in line with global development strategies, and it also contributed to the international visibility of the cities.

3.22.6. Intermediary Cities World Forum

A series of regional forums were held in 2017 by the I-Cities Forum, led by Chefchaouen Municipality in Morocco. The Forum, which carried out its program for MEWA Region in Nevşehir in September 2017, organized the World Forum of I-Cities in

Chefchaouen, Morocco on 5-7 July 2018. Urla Municipality and Nevşehir Municipality participated in the Forum, representing the MEWA Region.



In the Forum where the results obtained from the regional works were gathered, a global agenda and a road map were presented for intermediary cities in line with their dynamics, and thus development

works in these cities were encouraged by theoretical infrastructure. Within the scope of the Forum, the Sister City Protocol was signed between Chefchaouen Municipality and Urla Municipality. This protocol has prepared the ground for the two cities to produce joint projects and activities within the scope of the implementation of the UCLG-MEWA Intermediary Cities Declaration announced as a result of the MEWA Regional Forum for Vehicle Cities in Nevşehir on 21-22 September 2017.

3.23. Smart Mobility Project Closing Meeting

Funded by England Welfare Fund the “United Kingdom – Turkey Smart Mobility Project”, has been finalized. Closing meeting of the project, which was conducted by Novusens Innovation and Entrepreneurship Institute in partnership with England Transport System Catapult, was held on 9 April 2019 in Istanbul. In the program, the outcomes of the project conducted for making research on the Smart Mobility Market of Turkey and for strengthening cooperation between the two countries were shared with the participants.

The meeting has started with opening speeches of Andrew Price, the UK Consulate in Istanbul Turkey Welfare Fund Portfolio Manager; Prof. Dr. Orhan Alankuş, Academics at Okan University; and Erol Aydın, Secretary-General of the Intelligent Transport Systems Association. The common emphasis in the speeches was the project’s contribution to the development of cooperation between the two countries. It has been also pointed out that the proper analysis of the market is important in terms of monitoring the relationship between technology and the real economy.

Smart Mobility Market Analysis in Turkey, activities conducted within the context of the project and the collaborations for the development of cooperation among Turkish-British companies were shared in the meeting by Berrin Benli, the Novusens founding partner. Lastly, Dr. Delia Dimitru, representative of the Catapult in the UK, has emphasized that it was important to ensure the sustainability of the collaborations established within the scope of this

project and the continuation of the activities to strengthen the existing relations.

3.24. VI. Istanbul Carbon Summit

UCLG-MEWA continues to follow the developments and programs related to the thematic areas under its committees. We were at the 6th Istanbul Carbon Summit.



Hosted by Istanbul Technical University on 09 April 2019, the sixth edition of the Istanbul Carbon Summit took place, under the topics of Carbon Management, Carbon Technologies, and Carbon Trade. The program was organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization and the Sustainable Production and Consumption Association (SÜT-D), and many representatives from the private firms, academy, non-governmental organizations, and the public sector have attended the Summit.

The fifth edition of this summit was organized under the theme “Climate Finance and the Challenge of Climate Change in Industry” last year. This year participants have discussed many issues including but not limited to a green economy, Turkey’s effort to fight against climate change and carbon management carbon industry in the 2019 edition of the Summit. The program has started with the opening speeches of Filiz Karaosmanoğlu, Professor at the Istanbul Technical University and the President of the Sustainable Production and Consumption Association; Mehmet Karaca, Istanbul Technical University Rector; and Sebahattin Dökmeci, Deputy General Director of the Ministry of Environment and Urbanization.



This year, as in every year, the award named "Low Carbon Heroes" has found its owners. Stating that they receive a huge number of applications for this award, which is given since 2015, Professor Dr. Karaosmanoğlu has indicated that this number is proportional to the increasing importance of the green economy in Turkey. Professor Dr. Karaosmanoğlu has also underlined that the applications were evaluated according to SÜT-D's aim of creating a widespread carbon management awareness and sustainable living culture. She also stated that training and awareness-raising activities on carbon reduction were rewarded with technical studies.

The list of the total number of 29 Low Carbon Heroes receiving the award is as follows:

- » Afşar Bala Women Cooperative: Climate-Friendly Afşar Bala'm Products From Afşar Hands
- » Akademi Çevre: Reduce the Future Carbon Footprint with Education
- » Aksa Natural Gas: Let It Go Natural, Let It Protect The Climate
- » Aluform Pekintaş: Producing with Sun, Low Carbon Footprint Product
- » Aves: Less Carbon Roads With Waste Vegetable Oil Biodiesel
- » Pressurized Irrigation Industrialists Association (BASUSAD): Pressurized Irrigation for Climate Friendly Agriculture
- » Biodiesel Industry Association: Local Green Fuel Biodiesel
- » BSH Turkey: Climate-Friendly Surface Cleaning
- » Bursagaz: Social Gas
- » Enerjisa Production: Green Power of Water in Natural Gas Plant
- » Enervis: Waste Heat Recovery in Aluminum Melting Furnace
- » Escon: Most Energy Efficient Food Facility
- » Istanbul Tree and Landscape: Combating Climate Change with Soilless Agriculture
- » İstanbul Kadıköy Hayrullah Kefoğlu Anatolian High School: Our Carbon Footprint is Green
- » ITC Integrated Waste Management: 1 Tomato Saves 5 Ton Carbon
- » Green Chemicals: Single Bathroom Coating with Non-Power Zero Carbon Footprint
- » Kalekim: Useful Traces in Shipment
- » Kolza Recycling: More Education, Cleaner Turkey
- » MT Greenword: SDG4 Kids Sustainability Game with Children
- » Nestle Turkey: Eco-Friendly Choices in Transportation
- » Nuh Çimento: Low Carbon Footprint Cement Formulation
- » Pendik Municipality
- » Polisan Kansai Dye: Dye Plant with Leed Green Certificate Standard
- » Ozturk Energy - Kahramanmaraş Metropolitan Municipality: Organic Wastes are Zeroised by Transforming to Energy
- » Shell & Turcas Petrol: Think Green, Move Green
- » Thermax: Waste Heat Recovery at Large Plant

- » Industrial Development Bank of Turkey (TSKB): Carbon-Neutral Banking
- » Türk Telekom: Efficient Cooling, Climate Friendly Communication
- » Zorlu Energy: Investment in the Future with Clean Transportation

C- MEETINGS of the GOVERNING BODIES

Activities related to the organization and participation in Congresses, Executive Bureau, Council Meetings of the UCLG World Organization and UCLG-MEWA during the reporting period (19 April 2016-09 July 2019) include the following.

1. UCLG Congress, Executive Bureau, and Council Meetings

1.1. UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau Meeting - 2016

The Executive Bureau in Kazan has been organized on 25th - 27th May 2016, gathering important figures from the urban world, 200 representatives from 90 cities, local and regional authorities from all around the world. The meetings in Kazan was the last time that the UCLG Governing Bodies came together before they meet at the World Summit in Bogota which will take place from 12 to 15 October 2016.

The opening session of the Executive Bureau meeting took place with the participation of representatives from cities in Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East. Ilur Metshin, Mayor of Kazan, the President of the UCLG Eurasia and Co-President of UCLG, opened the Executive Bureau meeting together with; Rustam Minnikhanov; the President of Tatarstan, Farid Mukhametshin; President of the State Council, Jacqueline Moustache-Belle; the Mayor of Victoria, Seychelles, and Co-President of UCLG and Josep Roig UCLG Secretary General.

During the opening speech Ilur Metshin; Mayor of Kazan, stressed the importance of continuous dialogue with urban communities stating that “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”, and has thanked the first President of UCLG, the former Mayor of Paris, Bertrand Delanoë, and the current President of UCLG, the Mayor of Istanbul, Kadir Topbaş, for their contributions to the organization.



Kadir Topbaş; the current President of UCLG, the Mayor of Istanbul, has joined the meetings on 27 May, celebrated that UCLG gathers in all corners of the world, and thanked the Mayor 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.”

In the meeting, Kazan and Johannesburg have expressed their candidacies to be President of UCLG. Parks Tau, the Mayor of Johannesburg and President of Metropolis, who had already submitted his candidature for the Presidency, shared his interest in helping the organization to take on a leading role in implementing the development agenda and New Urban Agenda with the Executive Bureau. Ilur Metshin, Mayor of Kazan and Co-President

of UCLG, has also expressed his commitment to the organization and his intention to submit his candidature for the Presidency. In this respect, he has declared that the priority for his mandate would be creating a web portal as a place for exchanging best practices.

1.2. UCLG Committee on Statutory Affairs Meeting

Members of the UCLG Committee on Statutory Affairs have come together in Barcelona, on 19-20 September 2016. In the meeting, the election process for UCLG Congress, membership fee situations of the members of UCLG General Assembly and World Council and substitute have been discussed.

On behalf of UCLG-MEWA, Secretary General Mehmet Duman and Salim Korkmaz have participated in the meeting. New membership fee system of UCLG-MEWA has been discussed in the meeting and reviewed with all participants prior to the UCLG Congress. The two-day program has lasted after the Habitat III Process meeting by Local and Regional Governments Global Task Force.

1.3. 5th UCLG Congress: World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders

5th UCLG Congress has taken place in Bogota, Colombia on 12-15 October 2016. During the Congress, more than 200 mayors and 2000 participants from different continents have gathered under the theme “Local Voices for a Better World”. Dr. Kadir Topbaş, Mayor of Istanbul and President of UCLG since 2010, has chaired the UCLG Executive Bureau, General Assembly, and World Council meetings, for the last time.



The new members of UCLG World Council that were elected on 14 October 2016 at the UCLG General Assembly meeting, has gathered on 15th of October, Saturday for the first time to elect the UCLG President and other Presidency members. Mpho Parks Tau, President of the South African Local Governments Association (SALGA) and Councilor of Johannesburg (South Africa) was elected President of the Organisation against Ilсур Metshin, Mayor of Kazan (Russian Federation).

Tahir Akyürek, Mayor of Konya (Turkey), was elected Co-President of the organization, thus, UCLG-MEWA will continue to be strongly represented in the highest level of governing body of UCLG World Organization. Moreover, Fatma Şahin, Mayor of Gaziantep and President of UCLG-MEWA, was appointed as UCLG Vice President.

1.4. UCLG-MEWA Representation in UCLG

Tahir Akyürek, Mayor of Konya (Turkey), has been elected Co-President of the organization, thus, UCLG-MEWA will continue to be strongly represented in the highest level of governing body of UCLG World Organization. Moreover, Fatma Şahin, Mayor of Gaziantep and President of UCLG-MEWA, has been appointed as UCLG Vice President.

During the four-day meetings, UCLG’s strategy for the upcoming period was also discussed. The new membership fee system that UCLG-MEWA has kept in the agenda and followed for a long term was adopted by the UCLG governing bodies and therefore, a good deal of decrease in the membership fee for UCLG-MEWA members was guaranteed. The new membership fee system has been also adopted in the UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau and Council Joint Meeting in Şanlıurfa, Turkey on 8 November 2016. It has come into force in 2017.

In four-day meetings, participants have reviewed the strategy of UCLG for the next period. UCLG-MEWA’s new membership fee collection system has been also adopted in the meeting. With this changing, UCLG-MEWA membership fee reduced significantly. Following the adoption by Governing Bodies of UCLG-MEWA, the new system has been

started to implement beginning from 2017.

1.5. UCLG Retreat - 2017

Focusing on UCLG World Organization's projected strategic plans for the upcoming period and the Organization's positioning for the New Urban Agenda; UCLG Retreat Meeting took place in Barcelona, Spain on 20-24 February 2017.

UCLG-MEWA General Coordinator and Press and Public Relations Coordinator have been attended the meeting.

During the Presidency Meeting, participants discussed UCLG's strategic priorities and the three fundamental policy areas for joint practices, namely providing housing for everyone, improving local finance and creating resilient communities. In his opening speech, Parks Tau, UCLG President, underlined the importance of the localization of global agendas and said that localization is a bottom-up approach, which will lead to a new type of social agreement. After Mr. Tau's speech, as UCLG's main partners, the European Commission, OECD, and representatives of the UN General Secretariat came together for a round-table meeting.

During the round-table meetings held on the 2nd day of the Retreat, participants discussed the following topics: Post-Habitat III Process and Implementation, Localization of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, Financing of Implementation, incorporation of relevant partners to this process, and Global Taskforce on Post-COP23 Climate Agenda and Beyond.

The retreat took place on the 3rd and 4th days of the Meetings. Political priorities, regional priorities, generally overlooked issues in global networks and "action waves" as a new cooperation modality were the issues handled during the third day of the Retreat.

The last day of the Meetings witnessed the discussions on strengthening communication networks like UCLG and adopting a holistic advocacy policy. Speakers explained the entire

awareness-raising campaign process conducted as a part of Habitat III. UCLG Sections provided information on their successful practices during the session, in which UCLG-MEWA shared its joint social media campaigns with Citizens' Assemblies and the campaign results. The listeners well received the joint campaign conducted by UCLG-MEWA and Citizen Assemblies, rating it as an innovative approach.

During the evaluation session meeting; the issue of migration, more specifically forced migration, was declared as one of the working areas to be prioritized hereafter with the leadership of UCLG-MEWA and with the support of CEMR and Africa Sections.

1.6. UCLG Executive Bureau Meeting - 2017

United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) held its first Executive Bureau Meeting on 18-19 April since the UCLG Congress in Bogota, Colombia. UCLG-MEWA members participated actively in the Meeting held in Madrid, Spain.



The topics discussed during the UCLG Financial Management Committee (FCM) Meeting that was held on 18 April, were the current financial structure of UCLG and membership fees, and new membership fee systems that are implemented by UCLG-MEWA and UCLG ASPAC. Secretary General Mehmet Duman represented UCLG-MEWA in the meeting.

Selim Yücel Güleç, representing Tahir Akyürek, the then Mayor of Konya and UCLG Co-President, also participated in the UCLG Statutory Committee

Meeting, which took place right after FMC Meeting. UCLG Policy Councils that were recently established, membership applications and host city applications for the upcoming UCLG meetings were the topics discussed during the meeting and recommendations were presented to UCLG Executive Bureau.

The policy discussion on “Local Governments Facing the Challenges of Localizing the SDGs” and “UCLG Intermediary Cities and Urban Strategic Planning” Joint Session were held in the afternoon. Salim Korkmaz, Coordinator of International Relations Department, participated in the Intermediary Cities Session and made a presentation on the Intermediary Cities MEWA Regional Forum organized in Nevşehir, Turkey in September 2017.

The decision to establish UCLG Policy Councils were adopted at the Executive Bureau Business Session on 19 April. According to this, Tahir Akyürek is involved in the Policy Council for Opportunities for All, Culture and City Diplomacy, keys to Sustainable Development and Peace, and Fatma Şahin, Mayor of Gaziantep, UCLG-MEWA President and UCLG Vice President involved in the Policy Council for Safer, Resilient and Sustainable Cities.

In line with the recommendations of the UCLG Statutory Affairs Committee, UCLG Executive Bureau adopted the new membership applications and decided to re-evaluate the membership applications from Lebanon. Next UCLG World Council Meeting will be held in Hangzhou, the People’s Republic of China, at the end of 2017.

After the Executive Bureau Meeting, many UCLG members participated in the First World Forum on Urban Violence and Education for Coexistence and Peace on 19-21 April. Parks Tau, UCLG President, Manuela Carmena, Mayor of Madrid, and Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris, underlined the mediation role of cities to eliminate social clashes in this period where urban violence and terrorism is becoming prevalent at the plenary session of the forum which was officially opened by His Majesty King Felipe of Spain. Mayors from all over the world, representatives of civil society organizations and international organizations presented their works

and good practices on decreasing urban violence in the three-day Forum. At the end of the Forum, Madrid Commitment to Peaceful Cities was adopted.

UCLG World Council - 2017

2017 UCLG World Council took place on 6-9 December 2017 in Hangzhou, China, with the participation of more than 400 representatives of local and regional governments. The event took place in conjunction with the Forum on Smart City and Big Data organized by the City of Hangzhou and the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC).

Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, and the UCLG-MEWA delegation have participated in meetings held with various themes. Secretary General Duman came together with representatives of UCLG sections and local leaders participating from around the world.

Within the framework of Executive Bureau presided by Parks Tau, UCLG President; Emilia Saiz, Deputy UCLG Secretary General, has been appointed as the new UCLG Secretary General; upon the retirement of Josep Roig.



UCLG Policy Councils have also been officially launched during the UCLG World Council Meetings. Within this framework, the inaugural sessions of UCLG Policy Councils on “Multi-Level Governance,” “Resilience,” “Right to the City,” and “Opportunities for All” have also been organized.

During the World Council Business Session, Strategic Priorities of UCLG World Organization for the term 2018 - 2022 have been adopted, therefore

a roadmap for ensuring capacity-building and a stronger representation of membership has been developed.

Within the framework of the Business Session, a number of Motions have been adopted. One of them, “Support for Women’s Political Participation at Local Level,” steered the creation of a Global Women Caucus that will involve 10 locally elected women leaders from around the world. Representing the Middle East and West Asia Region; Sibel Uyar, the then Mayor of Urla, will become one of the women local leaders within this Caucus.

Another substantial Motion submitted during the meeting was the one on “the Status of Jerusalem,” presented by İsmail Erdem, Mayor of Sancaktepe and UCLG World Council Member, underlining the need for local and regional governments that gathered under the umbrella of UCLG to uphold the international law with an aim to stabilize international relations and preserve the special status of Jerusalem by putting an end to the current conflict. Following the discussions and the suggestion of UCLG Africa, the issue of upholding the rights of Palestinians and offering global solutions was added to the Motion; which has been approved by the members of the UCLG World Council.

1.7. UCLG Retreat - 2018

Since 2015, the UCLG World Organization is organizing UCLG Retreat & Campus at the beginning of each year, to create more effective strategies and develop common working areas with its network.

2018 UCLG Retreat & Campus was held in Barcelona, Spain, on 22-26 January, with various sessions for discussions on the strategic plans of the organization for the upcoming period and organizational position to be taken in the face of the new global agenda. UCLG-MEWA delegation participated in the meetings of UCLG, including the members of the Presidency and its strategic partners, as well as representatives from the regional organizations, committee and working group secretariats.

On the first day of the meetings, discussions

revolved around the strategic priorities of UCLG for the next term and its working plan for 2018. Later on the meeting, participants expressed their views and recommendations on UCLG’s gender equality strategy, aimed to be realized firstly within its own organizational structure.



During the roundtable sessions organized on the second day of the program, the committees, working groups, and forums operating within UCLG, presented their key priorities for 2018, under the titles monitoring, advocacy and learning. At the first session in the afternoon, regional sections shared their priorities with the participants for the next work term. General Coordinator Korkmaz talked about the key outputs of the UCLG-MEWA Retreat held on 18-19 January, and the strategic priorities of the organization that were set during this meeting. He emphasized the importance of supporting and steering by UCLG World Organization, for the future activities of the sections.



3rd and 4th days of the meetings continued with presentations on enabling environment studies

co-managed by UCLG and Cities Alliance, and with discussions on steps to be taken for localizing the global agendas.

In the last day of the Retreat & Campus, a session was held on the importance of local finance as a main working area for the localization of the SDGs and, on the future cooperation to be formed between UCLG and Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV). On the same day, a kick-off meeting was organized for GOLD V Report to be published in June 2019, on localizing the SDGs, to gather the experts who will be preparing the regional reports. UCLG-MEWA team attended the meeting and met with experts to exchange ideas with them, about the regional report to be prepared for the MEWA Region.

Following the preparation of policy proposals and determination of the work schedule by the GOLD V team during the program in the next day, the meetings were concluded.

1.8. UCLG Executive Bureau - 2018

United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) World Organization has been holding its first Executive Bureau Meeting in 2018 on 23-26 May 2018 in Strasbourg, France.

During the meeting held on the morning of 23 May, representatives of UCLG World Organization and sections shared work programs for 2018 and discussed the alternative paths to complement and coordinate the sections within their own structures and in their work with UCLG World Organization. At the UCLG Financial Management Committee Meeting held in the same afternoon, the current financial structure of UCLG and the current status of membership fees were discussed.

Meeting of UCLG Committee on Statutory Affairs was held after the UCLG Financial Management Committee Meeting. The main agenda items of the committee have gathered to make recommendations to be submitted to the UCLG Executive Bureau, were: discussing the works UCLG plans to conduct for the detained mayors worldwide, sharing the philosophy of UCLG Ubuntu,

which is supposed to work as an advisory board, determining the steps to be taken for the changes in UCLG Presidency, making preparations for the meetings of the governing bodies to be held in 2018-2019, and evaluating the membership applications acquired through sections.



In several sessions held during the following two days, members of the UCLG Policy Councils met with mayors and ministerial representatives from different parts of the world, to evaluate the current situation in different thematic areas.

Following the evaluation of the 2018 Work Plan Progress Report during UCLG Executive Bureau Business Session held on 25 May, the new structure of the Urban Development Global Fund (FMDV) and the Municipal Investment Fund (MIF) to be established under the leadership of UCLG, were discussed. During the presentation of the priorities of the sections, which was another agenda item; İsmail Erdem, Mayor of Sancaktepe & Member of UCLG Executive Bureau, took an active role and presented UCLG-MEWA's 2018-2020 Strategic Plan.

As the last agenda item of UCLG Executive Bureau, the UCLG Proposal on the Escalating Conflict Between Palestine and Israel, has prepared with a base on the Resolution on Jerusalem adopted in Hangzhou, was discussed, as a result of the recent acts of violence in Palestine.

The Motion was approved by UCLG Executive Bureau with five abstaining votes, following the comments of Martinez Minguez Carlos, Mayor of Soria & UCLG Vice President.

In line with the recommendations of the Committee on Statutory Affairs, UCLG Executive Bureau decided that the next UCLG World Council meeting would be held in Madrid, Spain, in November 2018.

1.9. UCLG Retreat - 2019

2019 edition of UCLG Annual Retreat took place in Barcelona, Spain, on 11-15 February 2019. UCLG Presidency, Sections and Committee Secretariats, representatives from the Policy Councils and many other representatives from the partner institutions have attended the meeting.



UCLG Retreat has started with the discussion on issues related to the internal functioning of the UCLG in the process leading to the UCLG World Congress to be held in eThekweni-Durban. In this regard, participants have discussed the strategy and priorities of the Working Plan of UCLG for 2019. During discussions, participants have underlined the need for civil society cooperation, strengthening democracy, implementation of the right to the city. Special attention was given to the need for the establishment of a youth plan within the context of the peace agenda of Organization.



Through its participatory approach and the synergy and collaboration between the stakeholders, Retreat 2019 has shed light on the needs and expectations of the Learning Agenda and the meeting. Attending the meeting, Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary-General, has shared the institutional activities towards Sustainable Development Goals and has presented a framework for participants on the MEWA Region's approach to the Agenda 2030. Referring to the "UCLG-MEWA Pilot Project on Mapping the SDGs in Turkey" launched in July 2018, Secretary-General Duman has stated that this project contributed to the awareness raising as for the Agenda 2030 at the local level in Turkey. He has further added that the project also created an awareness among municipalities to integrate their municipal activities into a global agenda.

During the sessions organized in the fourth and fifth day of the event, UBUNTU, UCLG Advisory Board, and Global Task Force held their meetings. With this meeting, UBUNTU members came together with the representatives from the UCLG Presidency, Global Task Force and the key stakeholders for the first time and had an exchange of ideas.

Participants have reviewed the upcoming activities of the UCLG World Organization and evaluated the preparations for the UCLG World Congress. Evaluations during the event have provided an opportunity to discuss how to make sure that the voice of local governments is reflected in the international agenda in a stronger way.

2. UCLG-MEWA Congress, Executive Bureau, and Council Meetings

2.1. UCLG-MEWA 5th ORDINARY CONGRESS

The 5th Ordinary Congress of UCLG-MEWA took place in Gaziantep, Turkey on 19 April 2016 under the auspices of Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality.

In the first day of the three-day program, UCLG-MEWA General Assembly, Executive Bureau, and Council Joint Meetings, as well as UCLG-MEWA

Migration, Culture and Gastronomy Summit, have been organized.



UCLG-MEWA President	Fatma Şahin, Mayor of Gaziantep (Turkey)
UCLG-MEWA Co-Presidents	Mohamed Saadieh, President of Union of Dannieh Municipalities (Lebanon) Burhanettin Kocamaz, Mayor of Mersin (Turkey) Hussein Bani Hani, Mayor of Irbid, Jordan Moussa Hadid, President of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA), (Palestine), Sadeq Najafi, Mayor of Tabriz (Iran)
UCLG-MEWA Treasurer	Adnan Köşker, Mayor of Gebze (Turkey)
UCLG-MEWA Ombudsman	Hayri İnönü, Mayor of Şişli (Turkey)
UCLG-MEWA Supervisory Board / Financial Management Committee	Tunç Soyer, Mayor of Seferihisar (Turkey) Mustafa Dünder, Mayor of Osmangazi (Turkey) M. Tevfik Göksu, Mayor of Esenler (Turkey) Mürsel Torun, World Academy for Local Government and Democracy (WALD)

The morning session started with the speeches of Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General; Fatma Şahin, Mayor of Gaziantep; Shahram Gilabadi, representing Dr. Muhammad Bager Qalibaf, Mayor of Tehran, UCLG-MEWA President and UCLG Vice-President, Khalil Jbara, Advisor to the Minister of Interior and Municipalities of Lebanon, Sayed Ali Mohammad Mousavi, D-8 Secretary General, Ali Yerlikaya, Governor of Gaziantep, and Yalçın AKDOĞAN Deputy Prime Minister of Turkey.

In the session took place in the afternoon, UCLG-MEWA President, Executive Bureau, and Council members were elected for the 2016-2019 period, with the contribution of 160 members of UCLG-MEWA, 50 of whom are mayors from 15 countries. Within this context, Fatma Şahin, Mayor of Gaziantep was elected as the

UCLG-MEWA President for the 2016-2019 period. UCLG-MEWA Co-Presidents are as follows;

Moreover, members to represent UCLG-MEWA in UCLG World Council and Executive Bureau were elected.

The second day of the summit has continued with “The Syrian Migratory Crisis: an Opportunity to Develop Understanding of Urban Migration in the MEWA Region?” session jointly organized by UCLG-MEWA and WALD.

“Sustainable Urbanism in the scope of Culture and Gastronomy” was the last session of the summit.



2.2. UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau and Council Joint Meeting - 2016

UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau and Council Joint Meeting were organized in Şanlıurfa, Turkey on 8 November 2016 under the auspices of Şanlıurfa Metropolitan Municipality, Co-President of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Social Inclusion.

Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, who made the opening speech of Executive Bureau and Council Joint Meeting, has also presented the report of activities.

Mr. Secretary General has stated that they grouped the activities under 9 titles, which are; development of membership, strengthening relations with UCLG, strengthening relations with members, strengthening relations with UN and affiliated

organizations, meetings of MEWA governing bodies, projects, training, capacity building activities and press-media and public training.

Mr. Duman has also stated that their works to increase the membership base are still going on and that their visits to embassies in Turkey of the countries in the region are continuing.

After the presentation of the report of activities, Executive Bureau and Council Joint Meeting have continued with the presentation of agenda items by Fatma Şahin, Mayor of Gaziantep and President of UCLG-MEWA.

In the meeting, UCLG-MEWA Financial Management Committee Report has been presented by Adnan Köşker, the then Mayor of Gebze and UCLG-MEWA Treasurer, and the Ombudsman Report was presented by Hayri İnönü, the then Mayor of Şişli.

In addition to this, Dr. Leyla Şen, the then UCLG-MEWA General Coordinator, has made a presentation on the activities and projects to be implemented in 2017.



Moreover, New Membership System was adopted in the meeting lasted two hours. The new system started to be implemented in 2017. Applications for membership and resignations from membership have been adopted unanimously.

2.3. UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau Meeting - 2017



With the support of the Union of Municipalities of Turkey (UMT) and IETT, UCLG-MEWA and Nablus Municipality organized UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau meeting, the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Cooperation Development and City Diplomacy meeting and the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Urban Mobility meeting on 11-13 March 2017 in Nablus, Palestine.

The first day started with an opening session, and the speeches of Mr. Sameeh TUBAILA, Mayor of Nablus, Mr. Mehmet DUMAN, the UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, Mr. Cevdet GÜNGÖR, Head of IETT Customer Services and Corporate Communication Department, Mr. Recep ŞAHİN, Deputy Secretary General of UMT, Mr. Musa HADID, Mayor of Ramallah and President of the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA), Ambassador Hüsnü Gürçan TÜRKOĞLU, Consul General of Turkey in Jerusalem and Mr. Hussein AL-A'RAJ, the Minister of Palestinian Local Governments, with a family picture in the end of the session.

The president of APLA, Mr. HADID, who is also the UCLG-MEWA Co-President, chaired the Executive Bureau meeting. During the session, the 2016 Financial Management Committee Report has been validated by the members and a short presentation on the Sustainable Development Goals has been made. Ramazan Kabasakal, Head of International Relations Department of Ankara Metropolitan

Municipality proposed to host the next UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau and Council Joint Meeting in his city for 2018.

During the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Development Cooperation and City Diplomacy meeting, the Deputy Secretary General of UMT, Mr. Recep ŞAHİN, chaired the administrative works of the committee. Mr. Ramazan KABASAKAL, Head of International Relations Department in Ankara Metropolitan Municipality, Mr. Abdülmelik ÖTEGEN, Deputy Secretary General in Konya Metropolitan Municipality, representatives of TİKA (Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency Directorate), Turkish Red Crescent and APLA discussed the roadmap for multi-stakeholder cooperation. Halhul, Salfeet, Ramallah, Nablus, Dura, Gaza and Betunia Municipalities requested the membership in the Committee.

At the end of the first day, the participants made a technical visit to the public transport stations in Nablus.



During the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Urban Mobility meeting, the administrative work of the committee has been chaired by the head of IETT Customer Services and Corporate Communication Department, Mr. Cevdet GÜNGÖR, Ms. Rania DOLEH, the Head of Road and Traffic Department in Nablus Municipality and Mr. Hasan KÖMÜRCÜ, the Head of Transportation Department in Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality. They made a review of the committee membership and presented the Program of Activities.

Following that, Balamir GÜNDOĞDU, Electricity, Gas and Bus Operations (EGO) General Director in Ankara and Yaşar İNCİKLİ, Head of IT Department in Konya Metropolitan Municipality from Turkey presented their projects and best practices.

The training sessions started with the intervention of IETT experts and the presentation of the best practices by the discussants on “Planning of Public Transport”, “WRI Safety Lab Project IETT Case” and the “IETT Index Case Study”. Then participants exchanged their views and presented the challenges met in their projects. Participants have made some propositions of solutions to support them in achieving and implementing their projects.

2.4. UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau and Council Joint Meeting - 2017

UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau and Council Joint meeting took place on 18 October 2017, in Istanbul, Turkey, under the auspices of Sancaktepe Municipality. With the participation of 300 participants from 14 countries, the Meeting was concluded with the development of the roadmap of UCLG-MEWA for the year 2018.



Right before the Executive Bureau and Council Joint Meeting, UCLG-MEWA Financial Management Committee have gathered to review the financial report of 2017, and to discuss the draft budget allocated for 2018.

Following the UCLG-MEWA Financial Management Committee Meeting, Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA

Secretary General; İsmail Erdem, the then Mayor of Sancaktepe; Fatma Şahin, Mayor of Gaziantep & UCLG-MEWA President; Tahir Akyürek, Mayor of Konya, President of the Union of Municipalities of Turkey, UCLG Co-President; and Mehmet Ersoy, Deputy Minister of Interior of the Turkish Republic addressed the participants with their opening speeches.

After the opening session, UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau and Council Joint Meeting were held in line with the agenda specified.

Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, made a brief presentation of the Report of Activities, on the activities and various other developments initiated by its committees and working groups, starting with 01 January 2017. UCLG-MEWA Annual Program of Activities for 2018 has been presented by Salim Korkmaz, UCLG-MEWA General Coordinator.

Members also reviewed new membership requests during the meeting. Within this framework, the membership requests of 40 local governments in the Ivory Coast, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and Turkey have been approved. Following the passivization of the membership of one local government; in line with the call made to fill the available representation seats in UCLG and UCLG-MEWA Governing Bodies and considering the suggestions and requests of the members; Sancaktepe Municipality has become a member of UCLG World Council and UCLG Executive Bureau, while Kahramankazan Municipality has become a member of UCLG-MEWA Council and UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau. In line with the suggestion of members; as a tribute to his successful works under the roofs of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, Union of Municipalities of Turkey, UCLG and UCLG-MEWA, Dr. Kadir Topbaş has been accepted to UCLG-MEWA membership, as an individual member.

UCLG-MEWA Forum on Local Governments and Social Inclusion took place following UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau and Council Joint Meeting. Detailed information on the Forum can be found under the relevant heading.

2.5. UCLG-MEWA Retreat - 2018

UCLG-MEWA Retreat was held on 18-19 January 2018, in Istanbul, Turkey; with the participation of UCLG-MEWA Presidency and strategic partners, as well as Sara Hoeflich, UCLG Learning Program Manager.

With an aim to increase the visibility and effectiveness of the organization, and to develop the future roadmap with the stakeholders through setting the strategic priorities; various discussions took place within the scope of the meeting. The ultimate reason for this gathering was to set out the strategic priorities of the organization for 2018-2020, to be presented before UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau to convene in May.



The Meeting started with the opening speeches by Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General; Mevlüt Uysal, the then Mayor of Istanbul the Host City and the President of the Union of Municipalities of the Marmara Region, and Burhanettin Kocamaz, the then Mayor of Mersin & UCLG-MEWA Co-President.

“We will develop our map with a common mind.”

During his opening speech, Secretary General Duman has shared the purpose of the Retreat Meeting with the participants and highlighted the role of this meeting for providing a platform towards the establishment of various partnership opportunities. Duman has also said that “We give great importance of opinion and expectation sharing by our Presidency and partners. We will develop our map with a common mind.”

As part of the two-day program, the “Presidency Meeting” on 18 January 2018, started with a brief informative session on UCLG World Organization and UCLG-MEWA. Following this session; presentations focused on the Habitat Process and the New Urban Agenda, UCLG and the Bogota Commitment, the Sustainable Development Goals & UCLG’s role in the process, and UCLG-MEWA activities within the context of global agendas. In the last session, the responses given by members to the questionnaire submitted earlier were announced to determine UCLG-MEWA 2018-2020 Strategic Priorities. Participants discussed the alternative thematic working areas, in addition to the ones determined earlier within the scope of UCLG-MEWA 2018-2020 Strategic Priorities. On 19 January 2018, the second day of the program, the main issues of discussion were: strengthening institutional relations, improving the capacities of members and the representative function of the organization, advocacy works within the context of global agendas (committee activities, pilot project activities, monitoring strategies), developing joint activities and projects with other organizations, and coordinating the respective calendars of activities accordingly.

Towards UCLG-MEWA 2018-2020 Strategic Priorities

In order to set its 2018-2020 Strategic Priorities; UCLG-MEWA determined three working areas, taking the current situation of the region and the capacities of the local governments into account. In addition to Migration & Social Cohesion, Local Development & Governance and Fighting Against Climate Change, Urban Resilience has been determined as the 4th working area in the questionnaire study.

2.6. UCLG-MEWA Financial Management Committee / Supervisory Board - 2018

UCLG-MEWA Financial Management Committee Meeting was hosted by Gebze Municipality, UCLG-MEWA Treasurer, on 20 April 2018. While finalizing the 2017 Financial Report, the Committee has also

2.7. UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau Meeting - 2018

During UCLG-MEWA Retreat, which was held on 18-19 January 2018, in order to determine the strategic priorities and objectives of the 2018-2020 period, the evaluations made with members and stakeholder institutions have revealed four main fields of activity. In this sense, one of the agenda items of the UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau was the UCLG-MEWA 2018-2020 Strategic Plan. The strategic priorities which were unanimously adopted by the members and are consisted as the corporate road map for the next two years are as following: "Migration and Social Cohesion"; "Local Development and Governance"; "Fighting Against and Adapting to Climate Change" and "Urban Resilience."

2.8. UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau and Council Joint Meeting - 2018

Being the last administrative meeting held before the 2019 General Assembly of UCLG-MEWA, the event started with the opening speeches of Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary-General, Nihat Çiftçi, Mayor of Şanlıurfa, Uğur İbrahim Altay, Mayor of Konya and UCLG Co-President. After the adoption of the agenda items, participants have started to discuss the issues of UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau and Council Joint Meeting. Strategic Priorities Progress Report, which includes the activities as of 1 January 2017, was presented by Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, and the strategic priorities determined by 2020 have been shared with the members once again. Afterward, UCLG-MEWA 2019 Program of Activities, which includes the projects and activities planned to be realized in 2019, was shared with members by Salim Korkmaz, UCLG-MEWA General Coordinator.



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has been shared with the members. Subsequently, the 2019 Budget was prepared unanimously after considering the 2018 Annual Report and the 2019 Program of Activities. The evaluation of membership applications was another agenda item discussed at the meeting. In this context, applications for UCLG-MEWA membership from 19 local governments from Afghanistan, Palestine, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan were discussed and approved.

The agenda continued with the discussion on nomination categories of the UCLG-MEWA Awards. In this context, the members advised to use the thematic areas of UCLG-MEWA; Urban Resilience, Migration & Social Cohesion, Local Development & Governance, Fighting Against & Adapting to Climate Change and Sustainable Development Goals. It has been decided the preparation of the Award Constitution to be presented in the UCLG-MEWA Congress, which will be organized in 2019.

The documents of the nine working committees and administrative structures of UCLG-MEWA have been submitted to the Executive Bureau and Council Members. The decision to unify the committees which stand out with similarities in their field of study during the UCLG-MEWA Congress was one of the most important results of the meeting.

After discussing all of the agenda items of the UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau and Council Joint Meeting, the program continued with the Administrative Meeting of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Urban Mobility and UCLG-MEWA Urban Mobility Şanlıurfa Summit.

2.9. UCLG-MEWA Retreat - 2019

UCLG-MEWA Retreat was held on 26-27 February 2019, in Istanbul, with the participation of UCLG-MEWA Presidency, UCLG-MEWA Committee Presidents and strategic partners. The meeting which built on a strong institutional structure; came forward with an emphasis on the words "inclusive, informative and interactive." In this two-day event, sessions were held under specific titles

including "UCLG-MEWA Strategic Plan towards 2020", "Partnerships for Regional Development", "Notes from Global Agenda: UCLG Retreat & Policy Forum on Development" and "UCLG-MEWA Strategic Priorities". In the meeting, UCLG strategy for localizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been shared by the Learning Unit of the World Organization.



Before the opening session, a Closed Meeting was held on 26 February 2019 with the participation of UCLG-MEWA Presidency and Committee Presidents. Arch. Dr. Kadir Topbaş, UCLG-MEWA Founding President and UCLG President for the terms 2010-2013 and 2013-2016, has attended the meeting as an honorary guest and shared his experiences. He has also evaluated the current positions of local governments before the UN. Dr. Topbaş noted that non-politicized civil society organizations such as UCLG-MEWA and their active and productive works have great importance for local governments. In his speech, he also stated that good relations were established with the UN during his Presidency of UCLG World Organization. Topbaş also expressed that they established a ground for UCLG to be recognized by the UN.



In 2019, Institutional Visibility Will Increase

The opening session of the meeting started with the speech of Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary-General. Secretary-General has stated that this meeting will contribute to the institutional development of UCLG-MEWA and the strengthening of the partnerships. After that, Mohamed Saadie, UCLG-MEWA Co-President, has pointed out in his opening speech that UCLG-MEWA has established significant cooperations not only in the Middle East and West Asia but also in different geographies. Co-President has also noted the importance of joint thinking and collective action to achieve institutional goals.

In the session on “UCLG-MEWA Strategic Plan towards 2020”, participants have reviewed the activities conducted in 2018 and discussed the roadmap of the next year. As for the 2019 working plan, the dissemination of the SDGs Mapping Pilot Project in other MEWA countries and planned activities for increasing institutional visibility were among the hot topics. “Inspired Voices”, the short documentary filmed by UCLG-MEWA on the stories of successful refugee women, have been also shown in this session for the first time.

In one of the other session of this Retreat, called “Partnerships for Regional Development”, main stakeholders and partners have shared their evaluations for 2018. They also presented their 2019 working plans. In the session where possible partnerships were discussed in an interactive format, representatives from local government associations such as Arab Towns Organization, Union of Municipalities of Turkey and the Union of Turkish World Municipalities shared their views as for strengthening mutual cooperation.

In the session on the “Notes from Global Agenda: UCLG Retreat & Policy Forum on Development”, participants discussed how to convey local opinions and views to the global platforms through UCLG-MEWA activities. Outputs of the UCLG Retreat have been shared during the session. UCLG-MEWA also received partners’ recommendations for the 7th

Global Meeting of the Policy Forum on Development.

On the second of the meeting, sessions started with the presentations of the program of activities of the following strategic priorities of UCLG-MEWA;

- » Local Development & Governance
- » Fighting Against & Adapting to Climate Change
- » Migration & Social Cohesion
- » Urban
- » Resilience

The last session was ended with the presentation of Raphael Sedlitzky, Representative of UCLG Learning. In this regard; the methodology and different learning methods used as solutions to the problems faced by cities and regions were shared with the participants. Sedlitzky has also introduced the module that UCLG developed for localizing the SDGs.

2.10. UCLG-MEWA Financial Management Committee / Supervisory Board Meeting - 2019

UCLG-MEWA Financial Management Committee / Supervisory Board Meeting have gathered on 17 June 2019, in UCLG-MEWA General Secretariat, within the context of the preparations for the 6th UCLG-MEWA Congress. Meeting has started with the presentation of 2018 Financial Report and the financial report of the first three months of 2019. In the meeting where the draft budget for 2020 was also discussed, participants have also reviewed the UCLG-MEWA memberships.



Signed by the members, report of the Committee Meeting will be presented to the 6th UCLG-MEWA Congress.

D- COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

In this period between 19 April 2016-09 July 2019, activities, events and works conducted under committee activities are indicated below.

1. Activities of the Committee on Social Inclusion

1.1. June 20th, World Refugee Day



UN has set the theme for 2018 as “WithRefugees”. In line with dynamics of the region it operates, UCLG-MEWA supported and engaged in the activities and events during this year’s World Refugee Day. Within this context, UCLG-MEWA invited all its members and related institutions to sign and to disseminate the petition introduced in June 2016 with the initiative of #WithRefugees. In addition to this, UCLG-MEWA conducted various activities in its General Secretariat located in Sultanahmet, Istanbul, and provided information to the people on the petition throughout the day.

The purpose of the activity was supporting social cohesion and drawing attention to the rights of refugees and migrants. UCLG-MEWA prepared a video for the destruction of prejudices towards social cohesion and drew attention to the fact that migrants are supported and supported.

1.2. Panel on Social Inclusion

Held on 17 October 2017 in Istanbul, Turkey; under the auspices of Beylikdüzü Municipality, President of

UCLG-MEWA Committee on Social Inclusion; with an aim to provide a platform for local authorities, universities and NGOs to share their knowledge and experience on social inclusion, human rights, and participatory democracy; UCLG-MEWA Panel on Social Inclusion gathered around 300 participants from 8 countries.



Starting with the opening speeches by Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, and Ekrem İmamoğlu, Mayor of Beylikdüzü, the Panel continued with sessions on “Thinking Social Inclusion: Women, Children and Young” and “Good Practices on Social Inclusion.” Ekrem İmamoğlu, Mayor of Beylikdüzü, also made a presentation on “Social Inclusion Policies and Urban Development: Presentation of Beylikdüzü Yaşam Vadisi,” during the last session of the Panel, where good practices of local governments in Jordan and Lebanon on social inclusion, were also presented.

UCLG-MEWA Committee on Social Inclusion also had its first meeting within the scope of the Panel. During the Panel, the first meeting of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Social Inclusion also took place with the participation of local government representatives from 8 countries. Ekrem İMAMOĞLU, Mayor of Beylikdüzü and President of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Social Inclusion, presented

the Report of Activities of the Committee for the 2014-2017 term. The committee members also unanimously adopted the Draft Activity Program of the Committee for the 2017-2019 term.

Twenty-four local governments applied for committee membership. Within this context, the membership of Arab Town Organization, Aassoun Municipality, Bakhoun Municipality, Beit El Faqs Municipality, Bkarsouna Municipality, Dura Municipality, Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality, Greater Amman Municipality, Güzelyurt Municipality, Halhul Municipality, Karesi Municipality, Makseh Municipality, Maltepe Municipality, Nuseirat Municipality, Ordu Metropolitan Municipality, Qarsita Municipality, Saida Municipality, Syr Municipality, Union of Bekaa Awsat Municipalities, Union of Dannieh Municipalities, Union of Minieh Municipalities, Union of Al Sahel Municipalities, Union of Khalid Valley Municipalities, and Urla Municipality was accepted unanimously, raising the number of the members of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Social Inclusion to thirty-two, as of 17 October 2017.

In addition to the current Committee Co-Presidents, who are namely Büyükçekmece Municipality, Şanlıurfa Metropolitan Municipality, and Van Metropolitan Municipality; Greater Amman Municipality, Güzelyurt Municipality and Saida Municipality were also elected as Committee Co-Presidents during the meeting, increasing the number of Committee Co-Presidents to six

1.3. UCLG-MEWA Forum on Local Governments and Social Inclusion

United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section (UCLG-MEWA), aims to guide local governments in establishing policies on social inclusion, participatory democracy and human rights by contributing to the common voice of its members and continues to promote political negotiation, enable experience-sharing and peer to peer learning between municipalities at global level. Within the framework of these endeavors, UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau and Council Joint Meeting & UCLG-MEWA Forum on Local Governments and Social Inclusion took place on 18-19 October 2017, in

Istanbul, Turkey under the auspices of Sancaktepe Municipality, with approximately 300 participants from 14 countries.



Representatives of various local governments and NGOs as well as Ministry of Family and Social Policies of Turkey, United Nations and Union of Municipalities of Turkey have participated in the Forum, in addition to the high-level participation of representatives of the Ministry of Interior of Turkey.

Union of Municipalities of Turkey made a keynote speech on “Istanbul Declaration: It’s Content and Application” during the Forum, which was held with the main theme “Social Inclusion and Local Governments in Localization of Global Agendas.”

Following the opening and keynote speech, the Forum has continued with 3 thematic sessions:

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

The Forum has served as a platform to discuss global social inclusion policies at the local level, created an atmosphere which enabled cooperation and experience-sharing between local governments and NGOs which lead and support social inclusion programs. In this regard, the participants exchanged ideas on ways of ensuring effective and sustainable coordination in partnership with the local governments, public institutions, and civil society, based on the suggestions put forward.

Enabling discussions on perspectives of local governments, as the local practitioners of social services, together with non-governmental and public institutions working on this field; UCLG-MEWA Forum on Local Governments and Social Inclusion became a program in which participants shared findings on the kinds of works to be implemented at local level, in order to overcome the problems faced in the fight against social exclusion.

1.4. Enhancing Social Cohesion at Local Level through the Capacity Building of Migrants and Refugees Assembly Project

Within the framework of the Qudra Program led by the German International Cooperation Agency (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit-GIZ); training programs were organized within the scope of the pilot project “Enhancing Social Cohesion at Local Level through the Capacity Building of Migrants and Refugees Assembly,” for which Adana Metropolitan Municipality is a local implementer and UCLG-MEWA is a project stakeholder. The training program was held on 9-12 July 2018, at UCLG-MEWA General Secretariat.



In order to develop the working strategy of the parliament within the scope of the project's activities, the current situation and needs analysis study was completed. In general terms; ensuring the social cohesion between host people and refugees has served the process of integration with refugees in decision-making processes, resulting in a faster and smoother integration process and thus, ensuring social cohesion at the local level.

The active participation of all actors in the city in decision-making processes is important both for the legitimacy of the decisions taken and for the social cohesion of individuals with different sociological structures in the city. In this context, governance is an important indicator of patients with city councils in Turkey, the government also allow the representation of different social groups. The Migration and Refugee Assembly, which was established within the city council, enabled the refugees, the new actors of the city, to be a part of the governance process. In this way, both the legitimacy of the decisions taken and the social adaptation among the local people and the refugees were made a significant contribution.

One of the objectives of the project was to reduce the negative effects of the shocks from intense migration movements on urban resilience. The project aimed at reducing social stress and tensions, especially in relation to migrants and the local population, primarily related to the limitation of employment opportunities. The project also deals with urban infrastructure and security issues that may be caused by unexpected migration movements.

1.5. Mediterranean City-to-City Migration Project, Sub-National Workshop on Improving Communication on Migration for Local Governance

The workshop program, which was organized within the scope of the Mediterranean City-to-City Migration Project, was held on 18-19 September 2018, under the auspices of Tunis Municipality. The event brought together communication experts, city leaders, and local government representatives to create a new perspective on migration.



The two-day event provided an opportunity to identify opportunities and challenges at the local level, and to promote the dissemination of good practices. In the workshop; a presentation was made on the projects and activities of UCLG-MEWA in the field of migration. In addition, the obstacles and difficulties in the integration of migrants have been one of the subjects focused on the program.

The workshop program on “Improving Communication on Migration for Local Governance” in 10 cities located on the Mediterranean coast has presented examples of good practice in this field and offered the opportunity to exchange ideas for solving different problems.

1.6. Follow-up Workshop for Refugee-Friendly Municipalities on Social Cohesion

Within the framework of the “Municipal Know-How Programme for Host Communities in the Middle East” and “Qudra Programme”, a two-day study tour, as well as a subsequent two-day project workshop has been jointly organized by UCLG-MEWA, GIZ-Qudra, and Connective Cities, on 12-15 February 2019, in Berlin, Germany. The event interfaces with a dialogue event have organized in Istanbul on 8-10 November 2018.

In the course of this event, Turkish and German municipal practitioners have exchanged technical knowledge and developed project ideas. Selected Turkish municipalities invited to Germany to present their project ideas and to continue to work on the specification and possible implementation

of relevant projects. together with German local representatives.

The workshop has started with a two-day study tour. Delegation firstly has visited “Berlin State Office for Refugee Affairs” where the refugees register themselves as an asylum seeker. Participants have received information on the asylum process in Germany. In the second day, participants have received a presentation at “Neighbourhood Centre Schöneberg” where they had been informed about the services provided for women, children and elderly refugees. A brief presentation was also made about the language course offered by the Adult Education Centre (Volkshochschule / VHS).

The second part of the workshop started with an introduction and review of the previous events. Following a peer-to-peer discussion between each Turkish municipality and its counterpart from Germany, reviews were made on the details of the methodology for the joint implementation of the project, draft proposal and an action plan in order to have a clear road map for the next steps.

The main aim of the workshop was to develop concrete project ideas, which can be the first step for partnership-based projects. Based on this methodology, eight concrete project ideas were developed, presented and discussed at the end of the workshop. The development of these project ideas benefited greatly from the expertise of the municipal experts.

This has enhanced the critical reflection and the conceptualization of project ideas.

2. Activities of the Committee on Local Governance

2.1. Local Governance and City Councils Workshop

Workshop of Local Governance and City Councils took place on 27th and 28th of October 2016 within the cooperation of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Local Governance, Zeytinburnu Municipality, Union of City Councils of Turkey and Zeytinburnu City Council. Many representatives from 71 City Councils

from different regions of Turkey has participated in the workshop. In the first day of the event, six working group has been established and these headings have been discussed with city council representatives under two sessions. Summary of the final report of discussions has been announced on the second day of the meeting.



After the announcement of the final report to the participants, the program continued with the presentation on 2030 Localization of Sustainable Development Goals, prepared by the UCLG MEWA team. Relevant documents were shared with the participants. Following the presentation, views and opinions were shared and a principle decision was adopted for the creation of Task Force, whose members will be determined between City Councils, on the Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals. The program concluded with the evaluation speeches delivered by Secretary General Mehmet Duman and Murat Aydın, Mayor of Zeytinburnu and President of the Committee on Local Governance.



2.2. Technical Training on Local Government Financing

United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section (UCLG-MEWA) and Global

Fund for Cities Development (FMDV) organized a technical training on local government financing for the district municipalities of Istanbul, on 21-22 December 2017 at UCLG-MEWA General Secretariat.

Provided by Umut Eroğlu, FMDV Representative, this training program has been organized with an aim to strengthen the access capacity of municipalities to market-based financing by increasing their credit adequacy, and thus to ensure their financial sustainability. Within the training, participants discussed the requirements for reaching the level of project investments, credit purchase report preparation techniques, financial sustainability action plan, and investment planning in the municipalities.



Organized mainly to meet the needs of the financial services, R&D and strategy development departments of municipalities, the training program ended after the participants each received a certificate of participation in this program.

3. Activities of the Committee on Urban Mobility

3.1. Meeting of the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Urban Mobility

UCLG-MEWA has organized the 3rd meeting of the Committee on Urban Mobility on 2 December 2016 during TRANSIST 2016, the Istanbul Transport Congress and Exhibition, with the cooperation of IETT, the Committee's President.

Mr. Mehmet DUMAN, the UCLG-MEWA Secretary General and Mr. Arif EMECEN, the IETT General Director, has started the meeting by their respective opening speeches.

Mr. DUMAN has highlighted in his speech that the main focus of UCLG-MEWA should be on the localization and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular, the SDG 9, in the field of transport. He has insisted also on the important role of local authorities in the MEWA region in achieving sustainable urban mobility in cities to provide a better quality of life for citizens.

Nablus representative has proposed to hold the 4th meeting of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Urban Mobility.

In the administrative session moderated by the Deputy General Manager of IETT, Mr. Ahmet BAĞIŞ, Şanlıurfa and Konya Metropolitan Municipalities have been accepted as members in the Committee. The Program of Activities for 2017 has been reviewed and new activities have been proposed by the members. Members have proposed to have training for the municipal staff on road safety from which they can get a certificate. Mr. BAĞIŞ made a call for the hosting of the 4th Committee meeting in 2017; Representatives of Nablus Municipality (Palestine) and Izmir Metropolitan Municipalities proposed to be the next host.



Members and partners have exchanged on Innovative Transportation Systems, Public Transport in the MEWA Region and Projects. These sessions have been moderated by Prof. Dr. Khalid ABBAS, the Former Dean Egypt National Institute of Transport and the Expert Public Transport in Dubai.

3.2. 4th Meeting of the Committee on Urban Mobility

UCLG-MEWA Committee on Development Cooperation and City Diplomacy meeting organized on 12 March 2017 in Nablus, Palestine. During the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Urban Mobility Meeting, the administrative works of the committee were chaired by the head of IETT Customer Services and Corporate Communications Department, Mr. Cevdet GÜNGÖR, Mrs. Rania DOLEH, the Head of Road and Traffic Department in Nablus Municipality and Mr. Hasan KÖMÜRCÜ, the Head of Transportation Department in Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality. They made the review of the membership in the Committee and presented the Program of Activities.

Following the administrative meeting of the Committee, members have shared their projects and best practices. The training sessions started with the intervention of IETT experts and the presentation of the best practices by the discussants on “Planning of Public Transport”, “WRI Safety Lab Project IETT Case” and the “IETT Index Case Study”. Then participants exchanged their views and presented the challenges met in their projects. Discussants made some propositions of solutions to support them in achieving and implementing their projects.

3.3. V. Meeting of the Committee on Urban Mobility



5th meeting of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Urban Mobility has been held on 4 November 2017, at Lütfi Kırdar International Convention and

Exhibition Center, under the auspices of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (IBB) and with the support of Istanbul Electricity, Tramway and Tunnel General Management (IETT). Before the Committee Meeting, UCLG-MEWA Committee on Urban Mobility organized a panel titled “Eco-Friendly, Integrated and Safe Urban Mobility in the MEWA Region,” within the context of TRANSIST 2017.

In parallel with the TRANSIST 2017 sessions on 4 November 2017, UCLG-MEWA Committee on Urban Mobility held a panel on Eco-Friendly, Integrated and Safe Urban Mobility in the MEWA Region. Speaking at the opening session of the Panel, where local government and civil society representatives, as well as academicians, showed a great interest, Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, underlined the link between sustainable urban mobility and national economies. During his speech, the opening session, Arif Emecen, the then IETT General Manager, noted that TRANSIST 2017, which was hosted by IETT on 2-3 November, provided a great opportunity to introduce the new technologies in the sector and to share experiences. Mohamed Saadie, Co-President of UCLG-MEWA, President of Union of Dannieh Municipalities and Co-President of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Urban Mobility; reminded that the last committee meeting was held in Nablus, Palestine. In this regard, he emphasized the importance of UCLG-MEWA's awareness-raising activities in the region carried out with the principle of “leaving no one behind.”

Four sessions were held within the Panel, which hosted local government and civil society representatives as well as many academicians. In the first session of the Panel titled Problems Encountered in Achieving Sustainable and Eco-Friendly Urban Mobility in the MEWA Region and Solutions Offered moderated by Yunus Emre Ayözen, Head of Transportation Department of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality; Prof. Dr. Khaled Abbas, Former Dean Egypt National Institute of Transport and Expert Public Transport Dubai; Hasan Kömürcü, Head of Transportation Department of Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality and Co-President of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Urban Mobility; Menekşe Kızıldere, Climate and

Energy Project Coordinator of Heinrich Böll Stiftung Foundation and Mehmet Uylukçu, Deputy Chairman of the Executive Board of TOBB UND Logistics addressed the participants.

Randa Al Sabbagh, the then UCLG-MEWA Coordinator of Committees Department, moderated the second session titled Opportunities and Challenges in Planning and Practices of Urban Mobility in the MEWA Region. During the session, Prof. Rafet Bozdoğan, Head of Transportation Engineering Department at Yalova University; Rania Doleh, Head of Road and Traffic Department at Nablus Municipality (Palestine); Ahmad Khawaldeh, BRT Project Manager of Greater Amman Municipality (Jordan) and Büşra Buran, Manager of Strategy Development Department of IETT made presentations.

In the third session on Road Safety in the MEWA Region moderated by Ms. Doleh; Prof. Dr. Khaled Abbas, Former Dean Egypt National Institute of Transport; Kenan Tektemur, Head of Transportation Department of Mersin Metropolitan Municipality and Beril Kırıcı Kandemir, Proline Smart City Consultant have made presentations in their respective expertise areas.

The last session of the panel titled Good Practices and Projects on Eco-Friendly, Integrated and Safe Transportation was moderated by Salim Korkmaz, UCLG-MEWA General Coordinator. Dr. Jale Nur Süllü, Eskişehir Municipal Assembly Member; Selami Yazıcı, Head of Electronic Systems of ISBAK; Serhan Ünalın, Marketing Manager of Philips Lighting Turkey and Zeynep Platin Yardımcı, Rize Municipality Council Member, participated in the session as speakers

In the 5th meeting of the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Urban Mobility, which was held following the Panel sessions; committee members reviewed the report of activities together with the program of activities, introduced the works carried out in line with the program and determined the roadmap for the activities in the forthcoming period. In the administrative session, participants reviewed the committee membership and approved the

applications of the municipalities applying for membership. In this regard, the membership requests of Tubas Municipality (Palestine), Qalqiliya Municipality (Palestine), Azki Municipality (Lebanon), Union of Zahleh Eastern Municipalities (Lebanon), Nemrine Municipality (Lebanon), Mrah Sraj Municipality (Lebanon), Bikaasafrine Municipality (Lebanon), Kfenshleim Municipality (Lebanon), Karsayta Municipality (Lebanon), Ordu Metropolitan Municipality (Turkey), Rize Municipality (Turkey), Mersin Metropolitan Municipality (Turkey) were adopted. With the new members, the number of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Urban Mobility members has increased to 26.

In the meeting, Memet CAN Hallaç, Head of Transportation Department at Şanlıurfa Metropolitan Municipality, declared the request of Şanlıurfa Metropolitan Municipality to host the next committee meeting.

Regarding this, members unanimously decided to hold the 6th Meeting of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Urban Mobility in Şanlıurfa, Turkey within the first half of 2018.

3.4. UCLG-MEWA Urban Mobility Şanlıurfa Summit

UCLG-MEWA Urban Mobility Şanlıurfa Summit, UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau and Council Joint Meeting and the 6th Meeting of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Urban Mobility took place on 20-22 November 2018, in Şanlıurfa, Turkey, with the motto "Let's move in a smart way!"



The event has gathered representatives of local governments, private sector, international organizations and academics which presented their experiences, expertise, and projects in the area of urban mobility; it was also an opportunity for the participants to develop synergies in order to start new partnerships in the field of urban mobility.

During the thematic sessions of the Summit that took place on 21 November 2018, experts shared their experiences on Smart Transportation; Transportation Financing, Governance and Operating; Eco-Friendly Transportation; and Good Practices of Transportation in the cities of the Middle East.

During the 6th Meeting of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Urban Mobility, the committee members reviewed the report of activities, adopted the program of activities, reviewed the membership, and has made a proposal for the call of the host city of the next meeting.

In the Summit, it was agreed that the Committee on Urban Mobility should work together with the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Smart Cities to realize more effective results.

4. Activities of the Committee on Environment

4.1. 2nd Meeting of the Committee on Environment

The 2nd Meeting of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Environment has been held on May 30-31 in Istanbul, under the auspices of Istanbul Metropolitan

Municipality. Approximately 400 people from 14 countries have participated in the meeting that included important discussions on post- Paris Climate Summit process, and Habitat III Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development to be held in October.

Malatya Declaration, revised in the meeting, has been adopted unanimously as the Istanbul Declaration of Malatya Agreement. It was decided that the agreement, consisting of 8 headings (Fights Against and Concordance with Climate Change, Urban Agriculture, Protection of Biodiversity, Waste Management and Pollution, Energy, Transportation, Green Areas, and R&D), would be negotiated by municipal assemblies to become binding.



After negotiations on membership activities, applications made by Dura Municipality, Nablus Municipality, Beit Jala Municipality, Sana'a Municipality, Tabriz Metropolitan Municipality, Hatay Metropolitan Municipality, Karesi Municipality, Golcuk Municipality, Diyarbakir Metropolitan Municipality, and World Academy for Local Government and Democracy (WALD) for the membership of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Environment were approved; and the number of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Environment members has become 22. Moreover, with the approval of applications made by Sana'a Municipality, Dura Municipality and Tabriz Municipality for the membership of the Co-Presidency of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Environment; the number of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Environment Co-Presidents has become 6.

Dura Municipality (Palestine) has submitted its candidacy to host the 3rd Meeting of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Environment. The proposal was approved unanimously. Tunç Soyer, the then Mayor of Seferihisar, expressed his interest in becoming the alternative host municipality for the 3rd Meeting of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Environment if the meeting is canceled due the problems that take place in the region, and Seferihisar Municipality was accepted as a second alternative accordingly.

4.2. Taskforce Workshop of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Environment

Taskforce Workshop of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Environment took place in Seferihisar, Izmir on 20 May 2017, under the auspices of Seferihisar Municipality, the Co-President of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Environment.

Organized for evaluating the implementation and monitoring of the UCLG-MEWA Istanbul Declaration of Malatya Agreement, which refers to different thematic areas such as Fighting and Adapting to Climate Change, Urban Agriculture, Biodiversity Conservation, Waste Management and Pollution, Energy, Transportation and Green Areas; the Workshop was held with the participation of member municipalities taking interest on the issue.





The Taskforce Presidency Board determined after joint consultations during the workshop is listed as follows; During the first session titled “Global Development Agenda on the Axis of Environment and Local Governments: Key References and Examples of Good Practice”, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Environmental Protection Directorate and Seferihisar Municipality Research and Project Directorate touched upon international agreements on environment, such as the Covenant of Mayors and the Compact of Mayors. Following the commitments within the framework of these agreements and the presentations on steps taken, UCLG-MEWA representatives evaluated the New Urban Agenda and 2030 Sustainable Development Goals in terms of urban and climate resistance. Following this, eco-friendly practices passed by local governments were also presented.

UCLG-MEWA Istanbul Declaration of Malatya Agreement: During the second session titled “Malatya Consensus Istanbul Declaration: Implementation and Monitoring”, referring to purpose and scope of the Declaration, the participants mainly focused on the objectives and functions of the taskforces to be established. After drawing a general framework on the subject, the municipalities that are a candidate for Taskforce Presidency have made presentations. The session ended with the views and suggestions of the participants, after discussions on the structure and functions of the Scientific Council, to be constituted by the advisors of each task force.

The Taskforce Presidency Board determined after joint consultations during the workshop is listed as follows;

- » President of the Taskforce on Waste Management and Pollution: Tabriz Municipality
- » President of the Taskforce on Combating Climate Change: Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality
- » President of the Taskforce on Green Areas: Maltepe Municipality
- » President of the Taskforce on Urban Agriculture and Biodiversity: Karesi Municipality
- » President of the Taskforce on Energy: Seferihisar Municipality
- » President of the Taskforce on Environment-Friendly Transportation Systems: Rize Municipality

4.3. Training Program for Solid Waste

From Waste to Source-Integrated Solid Waste Management Solutions Planning for Municipalities workshop was held on 4-6 July 2017, under the auspices of Izmit Waste and Residue Treatment, Incineration and Recycling Co. Inc. (İZAYDAŞ).

Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, Zekeriya Özak, Deputy Mayor of Kocaeli, Muhammet Saraç, General Manager of İZAYDAŞ and Eva Prediger, German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) Program Officer for the Implementation Community Program for Sustainable Urban Development, have addressed the audience during the Opening Session.





Following the opening speeches, as keynote speakers, Hüseyin Kılıç, Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality Head of Waste Management Department, referred to solid waste management in Kocaeli; and Osman Şenaydın, Union of Municipalities of Turkey representative, made a presentation introducing solid waste management in local governments in Turkey.

With the workshop, the municipalities in Turkey also acquired the opportunity to gain a perspective on international studies in this field. During the workshop, the participants introduced the current Solid Waste Management practices in the two countries. The specific causes of urban waste problems in cities and potential strategies for the solution of these problems were also identified.

During the workshop, the participants introduced the practices on Solid Waste Management in the two countries and discussed specific causes of insufficiency in Solid Waste Management Systems and potential strategies for the solutions to the challenges.

Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality, Malatya Metropolitan Municipality, Şanlıurfa Metropolitan Municipality, Ordu Metropolitan Municipality, Karesi Municipality, and Hatay Metropolitan Municipality were the Turkish municipalities that made presentations on good practices and current challenges in this field. Later a poster was created with these presentations to be displayed in the gallery area. Following this,

a number of working groups were established on corporate environments and financing models; on retraction, transfer and sustainable disposal; and on recycling and reuse. Lastly, the groups discussed solid waste management practices in two countries.

Following the peer consultation session on the second day of the Program; the participants made a technical visit to the Incineration Plant, Medical Waste Sterilization Facility, Biogas Facility, Garbage Water Treatment Plant, and Domestic and Hazardous Storage Space of İZAYDAS.

On the third and final day of the workshop, the participants developed a strategic vision to improve solid waste management services in their respective cities. During the drafting process of the Action Plan, the steps to be taken in the UCLG-MEWA and Connective Cities partnership has also been identified. The participants also discussed the possibility of supporting potential projects of UCLG-MEWA and Connective Cities, within the context of the “Municipal Techniques for Host Community in the Middle East Program” by Connective Cities. The workshop was concluded after the participants expressed that the coming process will be shaped in cooperation with the taskforces created under UCLG-MEWA Committee on Environment, the Union of Turkish Municipalities and Connective Cities, and were granted with certificates.

4.4. Program on Protection of Climate in Cyclical Waste Management

As a follow-up session of the workshop titled “Integrated Solid Waste Management Solutions Planning for Municipalities” held in July 2017, in Kocaeli, Turkey; UCLG-MEWA and Connective Cities co-organized a technical visit to Cologne, Germany for three days for Turkish municipalities. From Turkey; Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality, Hatay Municipality, Pendik Municipality, Selçuk Municipality, Karesi Municipality, and the Union of Municipalities of Turkey (UMT) participated in the program.



After a briefing session by the Deutscher Städtetag (DST, German Cities' Conference) on the waste management systems in Germany, the program went on for three days with technical on-site visits to facilities in Cologne for introducing their waste incineration, waste recycling, and organic waste composting activities. During the visit, the participants compared the waste management systems in Turkey and Germany, and also discussed solutions that could be alternative to the existing systems. At the end of the third day of the technical visit, Turkish municipalities shared their impressions of the program and discussed the outcomes with the Connective Cities team.



After the technical visit in Cologne, Connective Cities organized a program on waste management for climate protection on 27-29 November 2017 in Hamburg, with the participation of 50 representatives from 8 countries, to highlight the current challenges faced by cities in achieving success in waste management by underlining the role of waste management in climate protection. All municipalities were invited to participate in this program to provide examples of their activities

and to share it with the German municipalities and associations within the European waste reduction week events.

Twelve of the presentations made by participant municipalities, including Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality and Kuşadası Municipality, on their good practices were selected and exhibited in the gallery area as posters. Within small working groups, the participants exchanged ideas on the presentations of good practices on issues such as waste recycling, energy production from waste, reuse of construction waste. In each group, the participants had the opportunity to learn about alternative solutions by comparing the current situation in their cities with those presented as good practices. On the last day of the program, all the outputs of the discussions in working groups became an action plan defining the roadmap for the next stage. The program was concluded with a technical visit paid to waste incineration and recycling facilities in German firms, after the determination of action plans.

4.5. 3rd Meeting of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Environment



3rd Meeting of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Environment was held on 7-8 August 2018 in Selçuklu Municipality with the participation of more than 200 representatives from 10 different countries. During the two-day meeting, "Take Action, Build Resilient Cities, Struggle Against Climate Change", the thematic sessions that touched on environmental issues and administrative sessions where technical work of the committee was discussed were held.

The meeting focused on the preparation of the greenhouse gas inventory and climate action plan, the processes of international climate and energy agreement signature processes, the water, wastewater and solid waste management strategies of the cities and how to create resistant cities against climate change. Through the thematic sessions carried out during the meeting, the contributions of a city to prepare its own climate action plan on a local and regional scale, the technical and financial difficulties that the cities may encounter during the preparation of the plans, and the role of sustainable waste management in combating climate change were discussed. In addition, in order to draw attention to the role of energy consumption from buildings in combating climate change, all carbon emissions from the meeting are carried out by Istanbul Environment Management Industry and Trade Inc. (İSTAÇ) and therefore the meeting was held as a “carbon-free meeting.”

In the session titled “Cities That Are Resilient to Climate Change” that was organized within the scope of the event, the general framework of the concept of urban resilience was discussed, the more vulnerable cities were evaluated with the environmental impacts of climate change, regional opportunities and difficulties were discussed in the development of urban resilience strategy and good practice examples were shared.

4.6. Works for Combating Climate Change, with the members of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Environment

All members of the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Environment have been mobilized to sign up for the GCoM and prepare a greenhouse gas inventory with the partnership of CDP.

UCLG-MEWA played an active role in the preparation phase of Istanbul Climate Change Action Plan (İİDEP) carried out by Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, President of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Environment, and contributed to sector-based round table meetings. Participation in six training programs held in July-September under the

“Awareness Raising in Climate Change in Istanbul Project” conducted by IMM within the scope of İDPEP. The outputs of the training program were shared with the members of the committee. During the closing phase of this project; during the “Local Climate Actions Panel” organized for Civil Society Organizations on 13 September 2018, in order to present research and studies on climate change, a presentation summarizing the climate studies was carried out by UCLG-MEWA.

Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality, member of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Environment and one of the municipalities prepared to pass the GCoM from its municipal assembly, prepared Kocaeli Climate Change Action Plan (KİDEP) in cooperation with Regional Environment Center (REC) Turkey. In the National Conference on Kocaeli Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Climate Change Project on 14 September 2018, UCLG-MEWA shared with the participants the works on climate change at the regional level.

4.7. Workshop on Partnership and Climate Strategy Training with GCoM

UCLG organized a workshop on 25-26 September 2018, to determine the strategies that local governments should follow in the fight against climate change and evaluate the joint cooperation that can be established between local governments and Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM), for which UCLG World Secretariat is one of the founding members.

The workshop discussed what the local governments mean for climate change, the challenges faced in the region, and the tools that can be used in the UCLG World Organization and sections for the solution of the problem. During the program, the general structure of the GCoM, the methodology used, and the sections created for each region within the GCoM were described and shared how the cities could be included in the network. At the end of the program, local governments exchanged ideas on what tools might be needed to establish regional partnerships for the solution of the problem and listed the ideas collected from 2 working groups.

4.8. ISTSU- Istanbul Water Congress and Fair

ISTSU - Istanbul Water Congress and Fair were held in Istanbul. It is the first activity of the Water and Wastewater Task Force established under the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Environment.



In the congress where sustainable water management and treatment technologies, wastewater treatment and reuse, trenchless technologies and infrastructure rehabilitation, sludge management and water industry are discussed; the contribution of efficient consumption of resources to the solution of the climate change problem has been examined. Within the scope of the Congress, the latest technologies and applications used in the sector with all stakeholders of the water sector were discussed and the leading examples were shared with the participants in the fair area.

4.9. Climate Action Plan and Studies on Increasing the Number of Local Administrators Preparing the Greenhouse Gas Inventory

UCLG-MEWA has mobilized its members to sign the Climate and Energy Convention (GCoM), which is one of the founding members of the UCLG World Secretariat, in order to increase the number of local governments preparing their own greenhouse gas inventory and climate action plan.

Local governments that signed the GCoM are subject to work in a three-year period. In these three years, the cities that have signed the agreement are responsible for setting up their own greenhouse gas inventory in the first year, setting a reasonable reduction target in line with the data and national targets in the second year, and preparing an action plan for the realization of these targets in the last year. At this stage, UCLG-MEWA signed a protocol with the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), an international non-profit organization that is one of the official reporting platforms of GCoM to assist its members in the preparation of carbon inventories. Thus, it encourages local governments to localize the global climate agendas through the global GCoM and CDP partners, including its members in the fight against climate change.

A common road map was established by the Union of Municipalities of Turkey and The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of the Republic of Turkey as a first step of the process. The initiative came of the initiation of a climate action plan preparation process in 30 metropolitan cities in Turkey.

Within the scope of combating the negative impacts of climate change for the construction of environmentally resistant cities, the studies continued throughout the year. Efforts to support the mitigation objectives set out in climate action plans related to adaptation strategies have been supported. With the signed partnership agreements and protocols, climate action plan and greenhouse gas inventory preparation activities were encouraged in the cities of MEWA Region and

contributed to the reduction of the environmental fragilities in the cities in the region.

4.10. June 5th, World Environment Day Activities

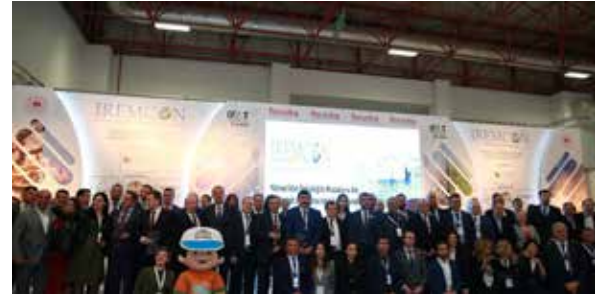
Within the scope of the activities on June 5th, World Environment Day, which was celebrated with different activities to attract public attention to environmental problems, the main theme of the struggle against plastic pollution was determined by the UN for the activities to be carried out by the UN in 2018.

As 10% of the total waste produced in the world is plastic, UCLG-MEWA emphasized the production and consumption of plastics in the field works carried out together with members of the Committee on Environment and in its activities on social media. In this context, UCLG-MEWA Committee on Environment, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Maritime Services Directorate and Istanbul Environmental Management Industry and Trade Inc. (İSTAC) aimed to increase the awareness of the public about the issue by exhibiting the various types of waste extracted from the Marmara Sea, on the Kadıköy coast. With this activity, it aimed to draw attention to the "Responsible Production and Consumption" and "Responsible Production and Consumption" which is one of the Sustainable Development Goals aiming at the adoption of sustainable consumption habits until 2030 and "Life in Water" aiming to protect the marine and coastal ecosystems in a sustainable way and to protect them from pollution.

4.11. 3rd IREMCON INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE

The 3rd International Environmental Conference IREMCON has been held on 28-29 March 2019 in Istanbul Expo Center. Mohammed Saadie, UCLG-MEWA Co-President and President of the Union of Municipalities of Dannieh; and Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary-General, has participated in the program, which brought together many representatives from public and private sectors, as well as nonprofit organizations.

The previous edition the Conference, which was organized on 21-22 March under the theme "Circular Economy" on, focused on waste management and recycling for Balkan countries. The conference conducted this year has convened experts under the theme "Struggle with Global Climate Change and Strengthening of International Collaborations in Waste Management".



Addressing the audience at the opening ceremony of the program, Mustafa Akalp, Chairman of the Board of Directors for the 3rd IREMCON, has stated that we have common culture and consumption habits with the Balkans, the Middle East, and the Caucasus that have similar environmental problems. In this sense, he has also added that this program provided an important opportunity to gather investors with common cultures in the same platform. Mehmet Emin Birpınar, Deputy Minister of Environment and Urbanization, was also among the speakers of the opening session. In his speech, Deputy Minister Birpınar has emphasized that environmental protection should be prioritized while the industrialists were supported.

On the second day of the program, UCLG-MEWA Co-President Mohamed Saadie has contributed to the session on "The Importance of the International Collaborations for Sustainable Development". Co-President Saadie noted the 2030 Agenda, and specifically Goal 16. He has stated that localization of the Goal 16 on "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions" in the region will definitely contribute to the localization of other goals.

4.12. Energy Efficiency Forum and Fair



The 10th Energy Efficiency Forum which is the most significant event of the sector on energy efficiency in Turkey, one of the areas that UCLG-MEWA operating, was held on 11-12 April 2019 at Istanbul Lutfi Kirdar International Convention and Exhibition Center (ICEC). The event has been organized under auspices of Turkish Republic Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources. The previous meeting of the event which organized with the theme of “As a Resource: Energy Efficiency- Hidden Treasure in Energy” had held on 29-30 March 2018 in Istanbul under the theme of “National Energy Efficiency Action Plan- Act and Implement”.

In this year's the event has featured various fora to discuss and share studies, developments and projections on energy efficiency in Turkey and the world, and exhibitions of new innovative products and technologies for efficient and effective use of energy all the way from the source. Speaking at the event's opening Fatih Dönmez, Turkish Republic Energy and Natural Resources Minister, “In all sectors, we saved energy 1 million tonnes of oil equivalent through 1,2 billion our investment in 2017 and 2018. We will be providing 14 percent decreasing on our primary energy consumption and 66 million ton reduction on carbon dioxide emission till 2023.” said.

Organizing on the second day of the forum, Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General has moderated the session on Best Practice in Energy Efficiency. In this session, implementers from the public and private sector have shared their

best practices with the audience. Levent Yazıcı, Bursa Provincial Directorate of National Education, Provincial Energy Manager; Zaruhi Gharagyozyan, Armenia Renewable Resources, and Energy Efficiency Fund, Head of Procurement Group; Ahmet Seferoğlu, Efektif Enerji, Chairman of Board of Directors; Osman Kipoğlu, ENERVİS, General Manager; Mustafa Serdar Tütek, Serdar Plastik San. Ve Tic. A.Ş., Chairman of Board of Directors have been speakers of the session. In the featured address of Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General highlighted the importance of Sustainable Development Goals in the field of energy efficiency. Duman, “ Innovation in energy sources and efficient use of resources also supports the fighting against climate change.”said.



In the session, the participants had handled these topics; Energy Management Works of MoNE; Successful practices in Energy Efficiency; Energy Efficiency Projects and Efficiency-Oriented Renewable Generation Facilities in Organized Industry Districts, Industrial Facilities, and Energy Cooperatives; Energy Efficiency Practices in Industry, and Industry 4.0 Applications in Industry and Model Factory.

The event has aimed to follow the innovation and establish the network by gathering the public and private sector and NGOs.

5. Activities of the Committee on Smart Cities

5.1. 2Nd Administrative Meeting of the Committee on Smart Cities and Mayors Panel

Within the context of World Intelligent Cities Summit (WICS); UCLG-MEWA organized the 2nd meeting of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Smart Cities together with the UCLG-MEWA WICS2017 Mayors Panel on 12-13 December 2017 in Ankara, Turkey. During the events that hosted many mayors and local government leaders, as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations and the private sector participants introduced various good practices on smart cities.



The 2nd meeting of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Smart Cities has been organized on 12 December 2017, at Ankara Sheraton Hotel. Starting with the opening speech of Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, the Committee Meeting enabled the mayors to introduce their pioneering practices on smart municipalities, being the leaders behind them.

During the session on good practices; Murat Hazinedar, Mayor of Beşiktaş; Lokman Ertürk, the then Mayor of Kahramankazan, and Hasan Tahsin Usta, Mayor of Gaziosmanpaşa, addressed to the participants for presenting their projects towards developing smart cities.



Fahri Yıldız, the then Mayor of Ürgüp; Cahit Altunay, the then Mayor of Sultangazi and Ahmet Yalçın Benli, Mayor of Gönyeli & the then President of Union of Cyprus Turkish Municipalities attended the Good Practices Session, that was moderated by Dr. Hicran Hamza Çelikyay, Member of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Council.

Committee members adopted the new membership requests, in the following administrative session. After the presentations on the activities of the Committee, the session ended with the closing speech by Secretary General Duman.

In response to the call made during the session to determine the host municipality of the next meeting of the Committee, members negotiated and decided that the next meeting will be held under the auspices of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, in April 2018.

After successfully conducting the Presidency of the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Smart Cities for 3 years, Konya Metropolitan Municipality has transferred the Presidency to the Greater Amman Municipality, during the meeting. Committee members assigned Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality assigned the Co-President of the Committee and approved the new committee membership requests of 18 municipalities from Lebanon, Turkey and Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus which increased the number of Committee members to 56.

Following the Committee Meeting, UCLG-MEWA organized the Mayors Panel on 13 December 2017,

within the context of the 4th World Intelligent Cities Summit (WICS2017) organized by Eurasia Strategies.

Moderated by Secretary General Duman; the Panel also had Murat Hazinedar, the then Mayor of Beşiktaş; Lokman Çağırıcı, Mayor of Bağcılar; Hüseyin Sözlü, the then Mayor of Adana, and Yaşar İncikli, Head of Konya Metropolitan Municipality IT Department, as speakers.

During his general evaluation at the closure of the Panel, Secretary General Duman highlighted that recent developments have changed the traditional mentality of management, which is based on serving and governing. Noting that today's cities need innovative local leaders who embrace the concept of governance, take responsibility, think strategically and follow the recent development on technology; Secretary General Duman further emphasized that local governments that cannot keep up with these transformations, will have certain failures to respond the needs of digital society.

5.2. Mayors Participated in UCLG-MEWA Panel on Sustainable Cities Policies

Within the context of World Cities Congress Istanbul 2018, held under the auspices of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, UCLG-MEWA has organized a Panel on Sustainable Cities Policies.

In the Panel moderated by Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, Hasan Tahsin Usta, Mayor of Gaziosmanpaşa; Cahit Altunay, Mayor of Sultangazi; M. Tevfik Göksu, Mayor of Esenler; Adly Yaish, Mayor of Nablus and Hazem Al Naimat, Deputy Mayor of Greater Amman Municipality & President of the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Smart Cities have addressed to the participants.

As the first speaker of the Panel, Hasan Tahsin Usta, Mayor of Gaziosmanpaşa (in Istanbul), has talked about Smart Municipality Practices on Urban Transformation, highlighting the importance of digital municipality practices with a specific reference to Gaziosmanpaşa Municipality.

Following Mr. Usta, Cahit Altunay, Mayor of Sultangazi (in Istanbul), has given a speech on the online public services they offer and their activities for Digital Archive and Transformation, as Sultangazi Municipality.

Adly Yaish, Mayor of Nablus (in Palestine), has mentioned the interactive map developed within Nablus Municipality web site, adding on that the map included icons for implemented, ongoing, and future projects, each of which had been classified with their location, components, and size.

M. Tevfik Göksu, Mayor of Esenler (in Istanbul) has noted that they gave great importance to all works and efforts for building a smart municipality, but their prior concern was always to create safer cities.

UCLG-MEWA Panel on Sustainable Cities Policies has ended up after the presentation of Hazem Al Naimat, Deputy Mayor of Greater Amman Municipality & President of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Smart Cities.

6. Activities of the Committee on Development Cooperation and City Diplomacy:

6.1. UCLG-MEWA Committee on Development Cooperation and City Diplomacy Meeting

UCLG-MEWA Committee on Development Cooperation and City Diplomacy Meeting will be organized on 12 March 2017 in Nablus, Palestine. In the meeting, Mr. Ramazan KABASAKAL, Head of International Relations Department in Ankara Metropolitan Municipality, Mr. Abdülmelik ÖTEGEN, Deputy Secretary General in Konya Metropolitan Municipality, representatives of TİKA, KIZILAY, and APLA discussed the roadmap for multi-stakeholders cooperation. Halhul, Salfeet, Ramallah, Nablus, Dura, Gaza and Betunia Municipalities requested membership of the Committee.

Some of the decisions of committee members' taken for the year 2017 are as follows:

Training on project development and financial sourcing will be organized for the municipalities,

Invitation of sister municipalities whose lists are taken from the Co-Presidents of the Committee to the committee membership,

UMT, President of the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Development Cooperation and City Diplomacy, will organize Local Diplomacy Workshop in April in order to accelerate the activities of municipalities in Turkey in local diplomacy, and to support them in having an active role in international platforms,

Works on sister city relations will be carried out throughout the year in order to define the sister city protocols that are not registered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and update the sister city statistics.

6.2. Workshop on Local Diplomacy

Under the auspices of the Union of Municipalities of Turkey (UMT), the Workshop on Local Democracy took place on 18-19 March 2017 in Antalya, Turkey for foreign relation departments of municipalities.

Around 150 people participated in the Workshop, aiming at establishing a sister-city strategy based on broad consultation with partners including central governments, local governments, universities, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders in Turkey.

In the meeting, participants addressed the increasing importance of local diplomacy and stated that local diplomacy has evolved into becoming a complementary element of national foreign policies. In the sessions where the importance of the presence of Turkish institutions abroad to ensure the sustainability of the sister-city relations was highlighted, participants stated that these institutions can provide support to municipalities and ensure more effective relations between sister-cities.

6.3. UCLG-MEWA Committee on Development Cooperation and City Diplomacy Presidency Council Meeting

UCLG-MEWA Committee on Development Cooperation and City Diplomacy Presidency Council Meeting were held on 10 July 2017, hosted by Union of Municipalities of Turkey (UMT) in Ankara.



Hayrettin Güngör, the then Secretary General of UMT, Mehmet Duman, Secretary General of UCLG-MEWA, Halil Avşar, Deputy Secretary General of Adana Metropolitan Municipality, Selim Yücel Güleç, Head of Foreign Relations Department of Konya Metropolitan Municipality, Ömer Faruk Sarı, Chief of European Union Funds of Ankara Metropolitan Municipality, Doğan Işık, Acting Head of Department in the Deputy Directorate General of the Middle East in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey participated in the meeting.

In accordance with the decisions taken at the first meeting of the Committee which was held on 11 March 2017 in Nablus, Palestine, it was decided to strengthen the relations of the sister cities in the Middle East and West Asia Region and to start the work between Palestine and Turkey for the first time. In this context, President and Co-Presidents of the Committee, who met in the Presidency Council Meeting, evaluated the content and coordination of the work to be carried out.

Participants emphasized the importance of establishing sister-city relations between Palestine

and Turkey focusing on capacity building and technical support and holding a Sister-City Conference that will gather relevant municipalities and stakeholders together. Highlighting that sister-city relations should be established not only with municipalities but also with other local actors, participants also discussed the changes in the committee membership, which has risen to 17 including the membership request from the Union of Turkish World Municipalities (TDBB).

After a review for ongoing preparations for the UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau and Council Joint Meeting to be held on 18 October 2017, the Presidency Council Meeting was concluded with negotiations on UCLG-MEWA Calendar of Key Activities for 2017.

6.4. Turkey - Palestine Sister City UMT Workshop

The Union of Municipalities of Turkey (UMT), President of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Development Cooperation and City Diplomacy, organized Turkey-Palestine Sister City Workshop on 22 September 2017 in Nevşehir, Turkey; with an aim to strengthen the existing sister-city relations between municipalities in Turkey and Palestine.



During the workshop held with the Presidency of Hayrettin Güngör, UMT Secretary General, and with the esteemed participation of Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, and İsmet İnce, Mayor of Avanos; the participants made discussions on activities that are carried out within the context of existing sister-city relations between the two countries, together with challenges and solutions in this regard. In the light of the suggestions offered, the participants decided on establishing sister-city relations between all municipalities in Palestine and Turkey and creating a UMT database for gathering demographic and geographic data of municipalities in Palestine, along with a needs analysis for each. In this respect, Palestinian municipalities will submit backgrounders on their specific dynamics to UMT, to facilitate a smoother and fast process.

Following the evaluations on the sustainability of the sister-city relations, the participants decided to determine three main titles for the problems encountered in the provision of mutually agreed service areas and emphasized the need to conduct project-oriented works. The participants also decided to organize a Sister City Summit in 2018, in order to sign the Sister City Protocols

6.5. Turkey - Palestine Sister City Workshop

UCLG-MEWA aims to increase the number of sister city protocols between Turkey and Palestine and to activate the existing ones. In this respect, the Palestinian Local Governments Association

(APLA) and the Union of Gaza Municipalities came together, and a study was carried out on the areas where the municipalities had good practices and needed to develop projects. The study included 30 municipalities from the West Bank and Gaza.

The analysis study has served to create a data pool for the purpose of establishing the sister city relations on a project basis and for conducting the relations actively. This data pool is a study that will be effective in the healthy establishment of the international cooperation of the municipalities and the sustainability of these relations.

As a result of the determination work carried out to determine the areas needed by municipalities, it was concluded that water and sewerage were the main subjects that were asked to be developed. As a result of this study, as one of the mitigation and adaptation activities that local governments should follow in the fight against climate change; a training program including information on sustainable water management strategies and corresponding infrastructure and treatment technologies.

6.6. Relations with the Institute of World Cities Diplomacy (World Institute of Cities' Diplomacy-WICD)

After the meeting between the Institute of World Cities Diplomacy (headquartered in Greece) and UCLG-MEWA on 13-14 February 2018 in Istanbul, a cooperation protocol was signed between the two institutions. The protocol covers the projects and activities to be carried out in accordance with the mutual negotiations between the two institutions and joint publications.

The Cooperation Protocol signed between WICD and UCLG-MEWA has been an important step towards opening the diplomacy channels among the countries through the cities. The protocol has been an effective starting point for the development of cities in the MEWA Region and strengthening the decentralized cooperation of the cities especially in line with the reference sources to be established in the field of city diplomacy.

6.7. Pilot Project on Mapping the Sustainable Development Goals in Turkey



Within the context of localizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a pilot mapping project has been launched in Turkey. In the project; there are 22 municipalities composed of UCLG-MEWA Presidency, Supervisory Board and members of the Committee on Local Governance. The project, which is planned to be completed by 31 December 2018 with the municipalities that declared participation in the project, has organized two-day workshops in each municipality. Since the opening and information meeting held at the General Secretariat of UCLG-MEWA on 3 July, 2018; Mezitli Municipality, Mersin Metropolitan Municipality, Sancaktepe Municipality, Karesi Municipality, Eyyübiye Municipality, Zeytinburnu Municipality, Çanakkale Municipality, and Nilüfer Municipality organized workshops.

Within the scope of the project, the awareness and awareness level of the employees on the SDGs was increased in municipalities where the workshop program was organized and an awareness infrastructure was created for integrating global agendas into local development strategies. Multi-stakeholder workshop programs have also contributed to the strengthening of the governance phenomenon through the cooperation of different factors in the city.

Implementation of targets at the city level will contribute to the economic and social resilience of the city in addition to reducing the vulnerability to environmental disasters and shocks. This pilot

project contributed to the strengthening of urban resilience and increasing the capacity of the municipal staff in this area by developing measures against urban fragilities and measures against this situation.

One of the three important areas where the 17 global targets, which were planned to be carried out by local governments until 2030, intensified, was determined as the fight against climate change. Through these objectives; the awareness of municipal employees was raised in all matters related to ensuring sustainable water management for all, access to green energy, adopting responsible production and consumption approaches and protection of terrestrial and coastal ecosystems. Furthermore, a reference has been made for the activities that are planned to be carried out by the municipalities in the future.

Project on promoting social cohesion by supporting the establishment of sound policies that support everyone's economic participation, regardless of gender, race and ethnic origin, and also finding a lasting solution to conflict and mistrust, local governments have an important perspective on global agendas.

6.8. Adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals by the Municipal Assemblies

SDGs will be on the global agenda until 2030. Therefore, with an aim to carry these Goals in the local agenda of the LGs in Turkey, negotiations were held between UCLG-MEWA and the Ministry of Interior of Turkey. As a result of these negotiations, the municipalities in Turkey were sent by the Ministry in a written appeal to the municipal assemblies to take a decision to embrace these goals.

As a result of the call; Kestel Municipality (Bursa), Silivri Municipality (Istanbul), Terme Municipality (Samsun), Tapsba Municipality (Van), Urla Municipality (Izmir), Yunusemre Municipality (Manisa), Sancaktepe Municipality (Istanbul) and Karesi Municipality (Balıkesir) has submitted an excerpt of these decisions to UCLG-MEWA. The decisions of the assemblies that have been taken

have provided the awareness infrastructure in the relevant municipalities in order to create awareness on the local targets for the global targets, and have gained awareness that the projects and activities should be formed by taking the Sustainable Development Agenda into consideration.

These global targets, which are planned to be carried out by 2030, are a tool for localizing the agendas on the environment in the international arena. Through the implementation of these objectives by the municipalities through their own parliaments, a commitment has been made to make local commitments for the implementation of environmental objectives and to create local solutions to combat climate change.

6.9. Workshops of the Pilot Project on Mapping the Sustainable Development Goals in Turkey

Sustainable Development Goals, which highlight that development should follow a more sustainable pattern, is now at the agenda of municipalities in Turkey.

Launched by UCLG-MEWA in July 2018 and financed by World Academy for Local Government and Democracy (WALD), the Workshops of the Pilot Project on Mapping the SDGs in Turkey are continuing at full speed. In the workshops conducted in all geographical regions in Turkey, the municipal staff is getting informed about the international agendas, and the municipal works are being aligned with the global goals. In addition to the previously organized workshops in Mezitli Municipality and Mersin Metropolitan Municipality, 11 new workshops have been held in Zeytinburnu Municipality, Karesi Municipality, Seferihisar Municipality, Çanakkale Municipality, Ordu Metropolitan Municipality, Nilüfer Municipality, Sancaktepe Municipality, Pendik Municipality, Eyyübiye Municipality, Şişli Municipality, Gebze, and Selçuklu Municipality.

Within the context of the workshops, municipal staff is also being informed about the background of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Habitat Process, the New Urban Agenda as well as the content and scope of the Global Goals. Firstly launched in

Turkey and planned to be disseminated throughout the MEWA Region, the project aims to contribute to the Voluntary National Reviews prepared on Global Goals and presented to the United Nations. It further seeks to provide necessary knowledge for municipalities to frame their upcoming strategic plans in accordance with the 2030 Agenda.

6.10. Closing Meeting of the Pilot Project on Mapping the Sustainable Development Goals in Turkey

Organized within the context of the localization of the Agenda 2030 defined by the United Nations, the Pilot Project launched in Turkey has been completed. Closing Meeting of the “Pilot Project on Mapping the SDGs in Turkey”, a joint project funded by World Academy for Local Government and Democracy (WALD), has gathered representatives from hosting municipalities, officials from the central government, NGO representatives, and many officials from the MEWA Region.

Speaking at the opening session of the meeting, Secretary-General Duman has underlined that the current level of awareness on the SDGs is not yet sufficient to take a step for the implementation phase, and the project was developed based on this finding. Duman has noted the importance of the study by stating that the Project sought to ensure the Voluntary National Reviews, as the monitoring tools of the process, to be supported by local activities, and the municipalism in Turkey to be conducted in parallel to the global agendas. He also stated that the Project, which was conducted in 15 municipalities, provided a ground for the municipalities to acquire the common discourse for accessing international calls for funds. Indicating that local government organizations like UCLG-MEWA should aim to contribute to the capacities of institutions in this process targeting “leave no one behind”, Secretary-General Duman has underlined the potential of human capital for institutions to succeed in the global movement, which will last until 2030. He further noted the need for support on this.

Speaking at the meeting as the representative of WALD, the partner and funding organization

of the project, Metin KARAKAŞ, Accounting Member, stated that local governments are the key institutions enabling democracy, human rights, and development to be settled and sustained. Underlining that local governments can be leading actors for the implementation of the SDGs, he has referred to the project as an important step to measure and monitor the progress achieved in Turkey.



Arch. Dr. Kadir Topbaş, Founding President of UCLG-MEWA, and UCLG President for the terms 2010-2013 and 2013-2016 have participated in the meeting as an honorable guest and keynote speaker. As one of the members of the UN High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons framing the Agenda 2030, Mr. Topbaş was among the esteemed guests of the meeting. Identifying local governments as important stakeholders, Dr. Topbaş has emphasized that local governments should treat equally to all of its citizens, without making reference to any political affiliation. He further emphasized the significance of local diplomacy in this regard. Noting in his keynote speech that city dynamics should be strengthened to achieve sustainable development, Dr. Kadir

Topbaş has highlighted that opportunities of the cities were underlined during the negotiations for the Agenda 2030. He further stated that the Goal 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities were determined in this process.

In the event, the outputs of the Pilot Project, which ended as of 31 January 2019, were presented by Dr. Faruk Örsün, academics at the Istanbul University Political Science Faculty. Örsün has presented the general findings of the workshops conducted in 15 municipalities. Örsün also currently prepares the data analysis of the Final Report for the Project. Human development indexes of these municipalities/cities were introduced by Prof. Dr. Murat Şeker, academics at Istanbul University. This has allowed participants to interpret the outcomes of the workshops considering the socio-economic profile of cities/municipalities.

Following the presentation of the summary results of the project, a session was held on the implementation framework of the SDGs. In this session, presentations were held respectively as the “UCLG Approach” by Raphael Sedlitzky, UCLG Learning representative, and “Monitoring Sustainable Development Indicators at National Level” by Dr. Aslı AŞIK YAVUZ, representative of Turkish Statistical Institute. Following this, representatives from 13 municipalities, as well as a representative from Chefchaouen Municipality (Morocco) have shared their activities in the session titled “Sustainable Development Goals: Best Practices.” Referring to the Global Goal, panelists presented the projects below:

- » Solar Power Plant Project, Çanakkale Municipality, Goal 7
- » The pool of Abraham, Prophet Ayyub Grave Culture Tourism Road Project, Eyyübiye Municipality, Goal 11
- » Biogas Plant Project, Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality, Goal 7
- » Public and Family Health Centers Project, Gebze Municipality, Goal 3

- » The opportunity arises from the Migration Project, Karesi Municipality, Goal 10
- » Women Producers Market Project, Mezitli Municipality, Goal 8
- » Associations Campus & Neighbour Committees Project, Nilüfer Municipality, Goal 16
- » Drinking Water and Sewerage Lines Renewal Project, Ordu Metropolitan Municipality, Goal 6
- » Packaging Waste Separation Center, Pendik Municipality, Goal 12
- » Knowledge House Project, Sancaktepe Municipality, Goal 4
- » Sustainability Office Project, Seferihisar Municipality, Goal 16
- » Konya Tropical Butterfly Garden and Insect Museum, Selçuklu Municipality, Goal 11
- » Snow Finch Project, Zeytinburnu Municipality, Goal 5

In the session, a representative from Chefchaouen Municipality shared the project named “The Mediterranean Diet”.

6.11. Meetings of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Development Cooperation and City Diplomacy and UCLG-MEWA Committee on Environment



Members of the UCLG-MEWA Committees on Development Cooperation and City Diplomacy,

and Environment, two of the committees of UCLG-MEWA has established in the thematic areas, gathered in Ramallah, Palestine, on 15-16 April 2019. In the meeting where thematic sessions were held together with committee administrative meetings, participants have discussed many issues including but not limited to Sustainable Development Goals, fighting against climate change, city diplomacy, and environmental urban resilience. After the Executive Bureau and Committee Meetings held in Nablus, Palestine, in 2017, member local governments and relevant stakeholders have come together again in Palestine with the intense participation of Palestinian member municipalities.



Organized under the auspices of Ramallah Municipality and in coordination with the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA), the event has started with the opening session on 15 April 2019. Launched with the opening speeches of Musa Hadid, Mayor of Ramallah and President of APLA; Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General; Adala Al Atireh, President of Palestinian Environment Quality Authority; Laila Ghannam, Governor of Ramallah and Al Breh; and Consul General of Turkey in Jerusalem, program has hosted many representatives from local governments, civil society organizations, and universities.

Speaking in the opening session, Musa Hadid, Mayor of Ramallah, has noted the importance of coping with the environmental challenges raised from increasing population and underlined the need for transforming urban challenges into opportunities. Mayor Hadid has further emphasized that countries could achieve significant successes through their cities, even these cities suffer under difficult conditions, and thus could play a role in international

diplomacy. In the opening session, Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, has underscored the contribution of the meeting to the visibility of cities in international platforms. Noting that Ramallah is the first Palestinian city to join the 100 Resilient City (100RC) Platform, Secretary General Duman has stated that cities with such successes are the source of motivation for UCLG-MEWA as an international local government association.



Following the opening session, an administrative meeting of the Committee on Development Cooperation and City Diplomacy has started. In the session moderated by Musa Hadid, Mayor of Ramallah and President of APLA, committee members have reviewed the committee report of activities and program of activities. They have also discussed membership issues. Participants have also reviewed the committee decisions and suggestions prior to the UCLG-MEWA Congress, planned to be held in Amman, in July.

After the administrative meeting, Yunus Biçer, Expert at Union of Municipalities of Turkey (UMT), President of the Committee, made a presentation titled "Complementary Element of Diplomacy: "Sister Cities". In his presentation, Biçer has mentioned about the scope of the concept of sister cities, its history, components, legal procedures, considerations for stronger relations, good practices, the role of UMT in that process, number of sister cities from Europe and Turkey, and sister city relations between Palestine and Turkey.

Following this, the thematic session started with the panel on "Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals." In the session moderated

by Sibel Bülay, Journalist, representatives from Ramallah Municipality, BM Habitat, Union of Municipalities of Turkey, and Birzeit University have addressed the participants. Panelists discussed the level of awareness and knowledge in the MEWA Region as for the Agenda 2030, and they have shared the challenges and opportunities to implement the goals.

The next thematic session was on “Innovative Forms of Conducting International Affairs: City Diplomacy”. In the session moderated by Salim Korkmaz, UCLG-MEWA General Coordinator, representatives from Al Khalil Municipality, Association of the Netherlands Municipalities, and Konya Metropolitan Municipality have addressed the audiences. In the contemporary world where the area of influence of the cities expands on a global level, panelists have discussed the role of city diplomacy in international development platform and its projections in the MEWA Region. Panelists have also shared the challenges and opportunities that cities encounter in their international partnerships.

The second day of the Ramallah Program has started with the administrative meeting of the Committee on Environment on 16 April 2019. Moderated by Musa Hadid, Mayor of Ramallah and President of APLA and took place with the active participation of committee members, participants have reviewed the report of activities, and program of activities. Discussion on memberships and suggestions for the host municipality of the next meeting were also among the issues evaluated.

Within this context, three thematic sessions were held. The first session was on “Taking Action to Fight Against Climate Change”. In the session moderated by Malvena Al-Jamal, Director of Health and Environment Department of Ramallah Municipality, representatives from Turkish Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, Palestinian Environment Quality Authority, Al-Khalil Municipality, and Selçuklu Municipality have presented their speeches. Participants have shared their works towards fighting against climate change, preparations for the development of climate change action plans

and they noted the importance of these efforts.

The next thematic session was on “Environmental Urban Resilience: Best Practices, Challenges, and Opportunities”. The session where the works for fighting against climate change were evaluated from an environmental urban resilience perspective, was moderated by Fatih Taşdemir, International Relations Expert at Konya Metropolitan Municipality, UCLG Co-President. In the session, panelists from Ramallah Municipality, Palestinian Energy and Natural Resources Authority, Nablus Municipality, and Şanlıurfa Metropolitan Municipality have addressed the participants.

The last session was on “Sustainable Use of Environmental Resources”. In this session, panelists have discussed effective use of natural resources, mainly solar and water, and also addressed the innovative methods used in the recycling of solid wastes. Representatives from Palestinian Ministry of Education and Higher Education, Union of Municipalities with Geothermal Resources, Palestinian Hydrology Group, Joint Services Council for Solid Waste Management / Al-Khalil and Bethlehem Governorates, and Istanbul Water and Sewerage Administration (ISKI) were among the speakers of the session.

Following the thematic sessions of the Committee on Environment, the program has been concluded with general evaluation. Recommendations taken at the administrative meetings of both committees will be discussed and resolved by the UCLG-MEWA Congress to be held in Amman in July.

7. Activities of the Committee on Culture

7.1. Workshop on Urban Resilience and Protection of Cultural Heritage

Within the scope of the 40th Session of UNESCO World Heritage Committee held on July 10-17, 2016, UCLG-MEWA and OWHC (Organization of World Heritage Cities) has held a joint side event, in Istanbul Congress Center. Panelists from all over

the world have made presentations in the side event titled “Urban Resilience and Protection of Cultural Heritage” and organized on 13 July. During the event, held in the panel format, and moderated by Lee Minaidis, OWHC Deputy Secretary General; Dr. Leyla Şen, UCLG-MEWA General Coordinator, has given information on UCLG-MEWA to the participants before the presentations.

During the program, which lasted one and a half hour, Denis Ricard, OWHC Secretary General, Michael Turner, Representative of the Director of UNESCO World Heritage Committee, Matthias Ripp, OWHC Regional Director, Sezer Cihan, Union of Historical Cities Secretary General, Asst. Prof. Pelin Pinar Özden, and Hüseyin Tok, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Head of the Department of Cultural Assets, have given speeches. In the last part of the event, which was available to participants accredited for the 40th Session of UNESCO WHC and which attracted intensive attention, panelists have answered the questions posed by participants.

7.2. 2nd Administrative Meeting of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Culture



UCLG-MEWA Committee on Culture The 2nd Meeting of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Culture was held on 28 March 2017, in UCLG-MEWA General Secretariat. As the President of the Committee, Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality; as the Co-Presidents of the Committee, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (IMM) and Seferihisar Municipality; and as members of the Committee, Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality, Karesi Municipality, Pendik Municipality and the World Academy for Local Government and

Democracy (WALD) participated in the meeting.

Tunç Soyer, the then Mayor of Seferihisar, presented the Committee's 2013-2016 Report of Activities during the opening of the Meeting.

Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality announced its candidacy for the Presidency of the Committee and was unanimously elected as the 2017-2019 Term President of Committee on Culture, by the Committee members.

Representing IMM as the new Term President of Committee on Culture, Abdurrahman Şen, Head of the Culture Department of IMM, presented UCLG-MEWA Committee on Culture's 2017-2019 Draft Program of Activities, to the Committee members; and the draft program has been unanimously approved.

After a discussion on membership issues, the membership application of Kahramanmaraş Metropolitan Municipality for UCLG-MEWA Committee on Culture was approved, which increased the number of members of the Committee to 17.

The Committee members have also decided that the next meeting of the Committee will be hosted by IMM in November 2017.

After the Committee Meeting, Jordi Pascual, Coordinator of UCLG Committee on Culture, informed the Committee members about UCLG Committee on Culture's activities, partnerships, together with its commitments and learning programs within the scope of Culture 21; and briefed the participants about Global Benchmarking 2015, UCLG Mexico Culture Award and the 2nd Culture Summit of UCLG to be held on 10-13 May 2017, in Jeju, Korea.

7.3. 3rd Meeting of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Culture

3rd Meeting of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Culture and UCLG-MEWA Talk on “Middle East and Culture” took place on 27 November 2017, under the auspices of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, the President of the Committee.

Held subsequently with the Talk, the 3rd Meeting of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Culture started with an opening speech by Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, which focused on the role of culture as a cohesive and complementary element for economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development, through its manifoldness ranging from cultural heritage and cultural & creative industries to cultural tourism.



Following the opening speech, Mr. Şen presented the Report of Activities of the Committee for the term 2016-2017, on behalf of the Presidency of the Committee.

Draft Program of Activities of the Committee for 2017-2018, was presented by Tunç Soyer, the then Mayor of Seferihisar and Co-President of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Culture. Following the review of the members, the Program was approved unanimously.

During the meeting, the following municipalities were admitted to the membership of the Committee: Acıgöl Municipality (Turkey), Bakhoun Municipality (Lebanon), Beit El Faqs Municipality (Lebanon), Bikaasfrine Municipality (Lebanon), Betormaz Municipality (Lebanon), Union of Dannieh Municipalities (Lebanon), Mrah Srej Municipality (Lebanon), Ordu Metropolitan Municipality (Turkey), Uçhisar Municipality (Turkey), Urla Municipality (Turkey), Ürgüp Municipality (Turkey), Union of Zahleh Municipalities (Lebanon); which has raised the number of committee members to 29.

With regard to boosting the Committee management and for further cooperation among

members; a special secretariat was formed in Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality.

After the admission of the municipality to the committee membership, representatives of Ordu Metropolitan Municipality declared their interest to host the 4th Meeting of the Committee, which was accepted unanimously by the members.

7.4. UCLG 2nd Culture Summit

As the main meeting point at the global level for local governments and other stakeholders committed to effective implementation of programs on culture and sustainability; the 2nd UCLG Culture Summit has been organized on 10 – 13 May in Jeju, Republic of Korea, under the theme “Commitments and Actions for Culture in Sustainable Cities” and gathered 500 participants from local governments, NGOs and universities from approximately 60 countries.

During all sessions, speakers emphasized the importance of cultural rights for sustainable development in cities on cultural policies. Abdurrahman Şen, Head of Culture Department of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality which is President of the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Culture, gave a speech on behalf of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality.

The 2nd UCLG Culture Summit provided a deep consideration and exchange of experience on the integration of cultural aspects in local sustainable development, which was also reflected in both plenary and parallel sessions, as well as in the numerous exchanges between participants, speakers, and partners. The meeting was also an excellent opportunity to discuss the continuation of the advocacy campaigns and activities that are led by international networks, cultural actors, local and regional governments, national associations and academics following the adoption of global agendas.

As a result of the 2nd UCLG Culture Summit; new initiatives emerged, new partnerships and new collaborations involving international organizations and networks, cities and local governments, and intergovernmental institutions were established.

7.5. UCLG 3rd Culture Summit

The 3rd Culture Summit has been organized by the UCLG Committee on Culture was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina between 3-5 April 2019. The Summit took place in Bilbao, Spain; and in Jeju, South Korea, respectively in 2015 and 2017. This year, the Culture Summit came to the forefront with its slogan “Cities are pioneering actions on the role of culture in sustainable development.” Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General; and Salim Korkmaz, UCLG-MEWA General Coordinator, have participated in the program.



Congregated in the program, participants evaluated the issue of culture on the axis of Sustainable Development Goals during the sessions hosted by the UCLG Councils. The starting point of this evaluation was the increasing importance of culture and cultural values in building sustainable cities. In this direction, it was one of the objectives of the program to promote the exchange of experiences between cities in order to ensure effective implementation of the culture and sustainability policies and programs at the local level. Besides the general and thematic sessions as well as workshops, the project presentations have provided a ground for a stronger synergy by gathering the networks operating on cultural policies for local development.

Cultural activities were the common point has emphasized by the participants in a way that it has an impact on self-empowerment, giving meaning to the world, strengthening their social relations by establishing a dialogue with each other and thereby creating an enabling environment for the establishment of social peace. In addition, the sharing related to art & cultural heritage and culture

& environment has created an awareness of the affairs in which culture has a multiplier effect.

The 3rd UCLG Culture Summit provided a platform for the inclusion of different voices in policy discussions and the design of cultural policies based on full respect for human rights, as well as the establishment of gender-sensitive, inclusive and peaceful communities. The inclusion of young people, women and all disadvantaged groups in decision-making mechanisms and the design of appropriate models for cultural governance and innovation based on cooperation between public institutions and all other stakeholders were among the prominent topics of the program.

The Culture Summit hosted many representatives of local governments and representatives of the relevant institutions and organizations from all over the world, as well as the mayor of many cities. The Summit, which was organized this year with the UCLG Executive Bureau Meeting for the first time, has called UN member states and other representatives in the international community to reinforce the importance given to culture in the 2030 Agenda, the New Urban Agenda and the Agenda on Climate Change.

The transformation needed to achieve ambitious but feasible goals can only be achieved through culture, as a means of adaptation and change. Hosting many issues, including gender equality and cultural rights, social transformation, youth, and independent culture, Buenos Aires, offering a unique experience to the cities and urban actors participated in the Summit. The summit has witnessed unlimited possibilities for future generations provided by the cultural policies that are integrated with social memory, rights, diversity, equality, and innovation.

7.6. Expo Heritage Istanbul 2019 Exhibition and Conference

Organized by Tg Expo in collaboration with Cultural Heritage Platforms and KOSGEB, Heritage Istanbul Restoration, Archeology and Museology Technologies Exhibition & Conference was held in Istanbul, between 11-13 April 2019. The event has sought to bring together the institutions and organizations working towards the preserving,

storing and transferring the art and history to the next years with the related suppliers of the sector. In the meeting, where representatives from 15 different countries attended, some UCLG-MEWA members, such as the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality, were among the participants. The program, which was followed by the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Culture, has started with the opening speech of Osman Murat Akan, creator, and manager of Heritage projects. In the opening session, Hayri Baralı, IMM Secretary General, as well as representatives from the General Directorate for Foundations in Turkey and the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism also have addressed to the audience and shared their local and regional experiences.



On the second day of the program; “Panel on Turkish World Cultural Heritage”, “ICOMOS Turkey Panel” and “Museum Managers Panel” were among the sessions attracted the attention of the participants. In these sessions, information on the newfound artworks were shared and the significance of sustainable museum studies for both local governments and the whole region was emphasized.

The last day of the event has started with session the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism was attended. In the session panelist have briefed participants on the conservation studies, changing cultural heritage and the understanding of collection as well as the restorations conducted with reference to this perception. Moderated by Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality, one of the members of UCLG-MEWA, and contributed by Kocaeli

University, ‘Kocaeli Cultural Heritage Studies Panel’ was held within the context of this meeting where participants also discuss the “Intangible Cultural Heritage”. The conference consisting of a total number of 23 sessions, also hosted exhibitions and workshops. One of the thematic titles of Expo Heritage has organized in 2018 was ‘Cultural and Natural Heritage in the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda’. Among the sub-targets of Goal 11 on “Sustainable Cities and Communities”, there is a sub-target for preserving the cultural heritage. In this regard and with reference to the sub-target on the preservation and protection of the cultural and natural heritage of the world, local governments have an important role in increasing the relevant efforts. The conference aims to increase awareness in this regard. Heritage Turquoise and Heritage Middle East will be the next step of the program. At the Heritage Middle East event, UCLG-MEWA is expected to be one of the partners.

7.7. Awareness Raising Seminar on the Protection of Cultural Heritage

The third edition of the “Awareness Raising Seminar on the Protection of Cultural Heritage”, has been organized by Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, took place on 9-10 May 2019. The sessions of the seminars organized at the Fındıklı Campus of the University has hosted many representatives from different sectors and occupations including, academicians, as well as students; non-governmental organizations; local governments; artists and artisans. The UCLG-MEWA Committee on Culture and Tourism also took part in the program.



Organized by the students of the Department of Art History at Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Seminar sought to preserve and maintain the continues history ongoing from the period of Osman Hamdi Bey, the founder of the university and the first modern museologist of the Ottoman Empire. In this way, the event further aimed to create social awareness for ensuring the sustainability of the value given to the cultural heritage sustainable. The first day of the program has started with the opening speech of Prof. Dr. Handan İnci, the Rector of Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University. In the following sessions, the importance of the promotion of cultural assets, the restoration of movable cultural assets and the main approaches on this issue, the legal dimension of the protection of cultural heritage, and the significance of transferring the cultural heritage to the next generations have been among the discussed issues.

On the second day, cultural heritage has been evaluated from the perspectives of NGOs and local governments. Participants have shared the general situation about the informative elements of museums at local, national and global levels. Then, the artworks of the Istanbul Yenikapı excavation, which dated back to the 8,500 years, and the exhibition of these pieces were discussed and the importance of the region was evaluated. In another session, participants have addressed the importance and contribution of non-governmental organizations to the protection of cultural heritage. During the session mentioned, local projects and studies carried out at the local level were shared by Dr. Architect Sinan Genim, President of Foundation for the Preservation of Turkey's Monuments, Environment and Tourism Assets (TAC Foundation); and Prof. Dr. Sümer Atasoy, the Executive Bureau Member of TAC Foundation; and Architect Alp Arsoy, Urban Studies Coordinator of the Foundation for the Protection and Promotion of the Environment and Cultural Heritage (ÇEKÜL). Thus, within the context of sustainable cultural studies, local studies conducted by NGOs in the fields of civil architecture and culture, environment and gastronomy have shed light on interdisciplinary interaction.

Istanbul Kültür A.Ş., the affiliate of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, and the President of the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Culture has made a presentation on the research and documentation activities carried out by the municipality as for the intangible cultural heritage. The seminar has been finalized after the sessions and evaluations about the preservation and evaluation of the cultural heritage.

8. Activities of the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Gender Equality

8.1. Administrative Meetings of the Committee on Gender Equality

The 2nd Meeting of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Gender Equality has been held on 10 January 2017, at UCLG-MEWA Headquarters. The Meeting was chaired by Hayri İnönü, the then Mayor of Şişli, UCLG-MEWA Ombudsman and Co-President of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Gender Equality.

The members of the Committee has decided to act jointly on the projects and advocacy activities. In this regard, the Committee decided to work on the dissemination of the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men, localization of Istanbul Convention and promotion of the establishment of equity units in municipalities, in this period.

The following meeting of the Committee was held on 12 May 2017 under the auspices of Şişli Municipality. The report of the meeting held at UCLG-MEWA General Secretariat on 10 January 2017 was presented during the session on the administrative affairs of the Committee. The Committee's projects and advocacy activities were shared with participants once again. Committee representatives have also presented examples of good practices on gender equality by member local governments of the Committee.

"UCLG-MEWA Committee on Gender Equality Commitment on the Localization of Sustainable Development Goal 5" was adopted by all members of the Committee, after a brief consultation.

Under the title “Localization of Sustainable Development Goal 5”, the afternoon session was held in Şişli Municipality Nazım Hikmet Culture and Art Center, under auspices of Şişli Municipality. The meeting started with the opening speeches by Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General; Hayri İnönü, UCLG-MEWA Ombudsman, Co-Chair of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Gender Equality and Mayor of Şişli; and Fatma Şahin, UCLG-MEWA Term President and Mayor of Gaziantep. Along with Sibel Uyar, Mayor of Urla; various representatives from many local governments in Turkey and women members of municipal councils in Istanbul also participated in the meeting.

Prepared to ensure the localization of the goal on “Achieving Gender Equality and Strengthening Women and Girls”, the Commitment was opened for signature by Fatma Şahin, Mayor of Gaziantep, and Hayri İnönü, Mayor of Şişli. Sibel Uyar, Mayor of Urla, is also among the signatories of the Commitment.

UCLG-MEWA Committee on Gender Equality Commitment on the Localization of Sustainable Development Goal 5 is as follows:

As member municipalities of the United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section (UCLG-MEWA) Committee on Gender Equality, gathered in Istanbul Şişli on 12 May 2017,

Considering the localization of the Fifth Goal (SDG 5) on “Achieving Gender Equality and Strengthening Women and Girls”, which is among the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals adopted by signatures of 193 countries at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit held in September 2015, as our primary target;

In order for women and girls to have equal access to municipal services regardless of language, race, color, sex, political thought, philosophical belief, religion, sect, and other characteristics, and for equal representation in management and decision-making mechanisms; We committed;

» To sign and implement the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life,

» To create institutional and permanent mechanisms in the municipality such as the Equality Unit, the Women and Family Directorate, the Women’s Studies Department, and the Gender Equality Commission,

» To share the Monitoring Committee reports periodically.



8.2. Panel on Participation and Entrepreneurship on the Axis of Gender Equality

UCLG-MEWA Panel on Participation and Entrepreneurship on the Axis of Gender Equality and UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau Meeting have been held on 27-29 April 2018, in Karesi, Balıkesir, Turkey. In the first day of the program held under the auspices of Karesi Municipality, member of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Gender Equality, the 4th Meeting of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Gender Equality followed the Executive Bureau Meeting. In the Committee Meeting, Şişli Municipality, President of the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Gender Equality, and member municipalities including Kahramanmaraş Metropolitan Municipality, Karesi Municipality, Nilüfer Municipality, Zeytinburnu Municipality, and Beytullahim Municipality presented their best practices on gender equality.

In the meeting, the Committee membership requests of Aim El Timeh Municipality (Lebanon), Assoum Municipality (Lebanon), Beitunia Municipality (Palestine), Union of Dannieh Municipalities (Lebanon), Gebze Municipality (Turkey), Haref Syad Municipality (Lebanon), Saida Municipality (Lebanon) and Urla Municipality (Turkey) have been

approved unanimously; and Saida Municipality was determined as the Co-President of the Committee among others, as per its expression of interest. The second day of the program has started with the opening speeches by Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General; Yücel Yılmaz, Mayor of Karesi; Mohamed Saadie, UCLG-MEWA Co-President, and Şükrü Kara, Deputy Governor of Balıkesir. Inviting all municipalities to sign the “Commitment on the Localization of Sustainable Development Goal 5,” Secretary General Duman called local governments to contribute to building sustainable, inclusive and equitable cities.



Emphasizing that development and equality start at the local level; Yücel Yılmaz, Mayor of Karesi, said: “Municipal services should be executed on the basis of participation.” Mayor Yılmaz further underscored that Karesi Municipality supports all kinds of activities aiming women and children empowerment and putting them at the center of the projects.

Following the opening speeches, Emilia Saiz, UCLG Secretary General, signed the Commitment on Localization of Sustainable Development Goal 5, together with Secretary General Duman and Mayor Yılmaz. Introduced with a specific reference to the localization of SDG 5, which refers to achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, the Commitment was a global call.

Within her keynote speech, Secretary General Saiz emphasized the importance of Commitment as a major step for gender equality, and she further touched upon the significance of developing new models involving diversities inequality policies;

strengthening the collaboration with non-governmental organizations and ensuring the participation of all stakeholders in the solution process. Saiz also stated that real equality can only be achieved if we consider diversities and implement common policies with a sense of true partnership.

Consisting of three sessions titled “Participation on the Axis of Gender Equality,” “Employment and Entrepreneurship of Women” and “Women Who Make Difference,” the Panel was concluded with the presentations of the representatives from Ouense Municipality, Schwabisch Hall Municipality, Consulate General of Bangladesh in Istanbul, Arab Town Organization and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

9. Activities of the Committee on Tourism

9.1. Committee on Tourism and Sustainable Tourism Meeting

United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section (UCLG-MEWA) Committee on Tourism and Sustainable Tourism Meeting which gathered nearly 120 participants from the Middle East and West Asia (MEWA) region, was held on 1-2 August 2017 and hosted by Konya Metropolitan Municipality.

Four sessions were held within the context of the meeting, under the titles “Sustainable Tourism for Development in the MEWA Region”, “Sustainable Culture Tourism”, “Tourism as an Instrument of Social Inclusion”, and “Sustainable City Tourism”, which were followed by the administrative meeting of the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Tourism.

As one of the opening speakers of the program, Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, underlined that the meeting aimed at finding an answer to the question “What can be done for the development of sustainable tourism?” and further highlighted the critical role of the local governments in this regard.

Mohamed Saadie, President of the Union of Dannieh Municipalities and the Co-President of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Tourism, noted that the meeting would provide an important ground for the implementation of the goals put in 2015 with the aim of addressing the social problems.

As the last speaker of the opening session; Tahir Akyürek, the then Mayor of Konya, Co-President of UCLG, and President of the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Tourism, gave a brief information on the vision and mission of the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Tourism and mentioned the contributions of tourism to the development of world peace and the mutual relations among countries.



During the meeting, Sustainable Development Goals and tourism approaches for development in the MEWA Region were discussed; Ms. Günnur Diker, United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)-World Committee on Global Ethics Member, mentioned five principles that should be adopted by local authorities. Within the same session, the concept of the brand city was defined as well as the tourism projects and good practices have been presented by the brand cities.

In the last session, executive and technical issues of the Committee were evaluated during the meeting of the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Tourism; the program of activities of the Committee for the 2017-2018 period was adopted unanimously. After the new membership requests, the numbers of the Committee members increased to 25; the Presidency of the Committee was transferred from Konya Metropolitan Municipality to Eyyübiye Municipality.

The new President of the Committee announced that the next committee meeting will be held in Eyyübiye-Şanlıurfa; the date and the theme of the meeting will be announced to all members in a written letter.

After the administrative session, Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, Mr. Mohamed SAADIEH, President of the Union of Dannieh Municipalities, Co-President of the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Tourism and Co-President of UCLG-MEWA, and Mr. Abdülmelik ÖTEGEN, Deputy Secretary General of Konya Metropolitan Municipality, made their closing speeches. The meeting ended with the emphasis that resting and traveling are also rights and UCLG-MEWA Committee on Tourism is the only voice to support economic development with tourism.

9.2. I. International Sustainable Tourism Congress:

Aiming to raise awareness on the importance of sustainable tourism approach and proposing solution to the problems encountered in this regard,

the “I. International Sustainable Tourism Congress” was organized in 23-25 October 2018, under the auspices of the Tourism Faculty of Kastamonu University. With the participation of more than 150 participants from 9 countries including Turkey, Madagascar, Philippines, Pakistan, Malaysia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Mauritania, the Congress discussed the term of “sustainable tourism” before the global platform.

As set out and foreseen in the “2017-2018 Program of Activities of the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Tourism”, the committee supported the preparatory process of the Congress, actively participated in it and encouraged its members to attend the meeting.

As regards to the realization of the related article in the Program of Activities, Kastamonu University, and UCLG-MEWA co-organized the “Panel on Local Governments and Sustainable Tourism”, on 23 November 2017, within the context of the Congress.

In the panel, Fahri Yıldız, Mayor of Ürgüp; Sibel Uyar, Mayor of Urla; and Mahmut Özçınar, Mayor of Güzelyurt, have respectively presented their best practices in the fields of culture tourism, gastronomy tourism, and city tourism.

In the program, a total of 24 scientific sessions were held during 6 concurrent keynote meetings.

9.3. UCLG-MEWA Forum on Sustainable Tourism and Local Development

UCLG-MEWA Forum on Sustainable Tourism and Local Development, hosted by Eyyübiye Municipality, the President of the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Tourism, on 13-14 March 2018, brought together more than 250 local government representatives from 12 countries.



By contributing to the dynamics of the city, we can contribute to local economic development. To this end, the program, in which branding, sustainable tourism, and smart destinations approach increased the tourism opportunities, provided a different perspective to the participants on the contributions to the sustainable economic development in the local and thus in the country.



The construction of sustainable local development in cities and the provision of a favorable environment is closely linked to the economic resilience of a city. Since sustainable tourism practices have an important role in reducing the economic fragility of a city, UCLG-MEWA realized this activity with the theme “sustainable tourism and resilient economy.” In the Forum, the participants discussed the importance of developing national tourism strategies for local economic development, especially in the field of gastronomy tourism. In addition, in the session titled “Urban Tourism and Smart Destinations,” it was emphasized that the need to develop accurate and integrated modes of transport within the city is a prerequisite for increasing the economic resilience of cities.

The Forum enabled a discussion of the effects of tourism activities carried out by local governments on climate change through urban tourism, nature tourism, and eco-tourism and on the policies to be followed locally for the adoption of an environment-friendly tourism approach.

9.4. Meeting Between UCLG-MEWA and Gastronomy Tourism Association

Gürkan Boztepe, President of the Gastronomy Tourism Association, and his accompanying delegation visited UCLG-MEWA General Secretariat on 15 March 2019. The delegation composed of Koraltan Saygın, Vice President of the Association; Levent Eren, Secretary-General; Yiğit Feke, CEO; Ali Ciner, General Coordinator; and Dilek Koç, Representative of Where Magazine, were informed about UCLG-MEWA Committees on Culture, and Tourism and has briefed on the functioning and activities of the organization.



The focus of the meeting was the promotion of local products through local government and thus contributing to the city's brand value. Considering this, participants have jointly underlined that local governments should carry out an action providing positive value for sustainable culture and tourism in the city. It was also noted that local governments should consider social responsibility while conducting these activities. Taking this into consideration, parties have discussed how to

conduct a joint project on sustainable gastronomy.

With this project, it is aimed in the long term that the cities will become predisposed with the "Super Brands" brand measurement criteria through the activities at the local level. This will ensure the realization of the potential of Turkish cuisine and thereby will contribute to the visibility of Turkey at the global level.

E- PRESS-PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

In this reporting period (19 April 2016-09 July 2019) activities carried out under press-publications and public relations are indicated below.

UCLG World Organization and UCLG-MEWA have been introduced through media organizations;

Comprehensive information on UCLG-MEWA activities has been submitted to member and non-member local governments and local governments that are not yet members;

Press releases, brochures, handbooks, PowerPoint presentations, CDs and similar materials have begun to be prepared to support related press and publication activities.

1. Web Site

The existing website of UCLG-MEWA (www.uclg-mewa.org) was renewed. The website, whose contents became richer and whose general look was renewed, is published in three languages, namely English, Turkish and Arabic.

In this reporting period (19 April 2016 – 09 July 2019) activities conducted within the context of UCLG-MEWA web site are given in the following:

Content and scope of the information on the website were developed continuously and the announcements and news were regularly updated.

Necessary arrangements and changes on the form and content of the website are being done

uninterruptedly, aiming at meeting the demands and fulfilling the expectations of the UCLG-MEWA members.

UCLG-MEWA, Marmara Belediyeler Birliği (MBB), Türkiye Belediyeler Birliği (TBB) ve Türk Dünyası Belediyeler Birliği (TDBB) arasındaki işbirliği neticesinde, karşılıklı web sitelerinde logoların paylaşılması ve link verilmesi sağlanmıştır.

In addition to this, UCLG-MEWA started to share its monthly electronic bulletin with the institutions and organizations working in the field of local government.

2. Publications

In this reporting period (19 April 2016 – 09 July 2019) activities conducted within the context of UCLG-MEWA publications are given in the following.

2.1. UCLG-MEWA Newsletter

UCLG-MEWA Newsletter is published in Arabic, English and Turkish languages, the working languages of UCLG-MEWA. It presents news and articles from local governments and the cities of the Middle East and West Asia Section. In the reporting period, the printing and dissemination of Newsletter have been finalized. Preparations for the 24th issue are still ongoing.

2.2. UCLG-MEWA Introductory Booklet:

UCLG-MEWA Introductory Booklet is a document presenting the structure of both UCLG and UCLG-MEWA, their committees, working groups, partnerships, other activities, and publications.

2.3. UCLG Booklet on Agenda 21 for Culture

Agenda 21 for Culture by UCLG is a booklet published in order to highlight the interdependent relationship between citizenship, culture and sustainable development; to provide an international framework supported by commitments and actions that are both achievable and measurable; to complement the Agenda 21 for culture adopted in 2004, making it

more effective; to harness the role of cities and local governments as authorities in the development and implementation of policies with, and for, citizens; and to contribute to the definition and importance of the essential role of culture in the United Nations Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda.

2.4. UCLG Strategic Priorities 2010-2016

This publication aims at contributing to the peaceful sustainable development of our planet and fostering the wellbeing of the billions of citizens settled in our territories through their mobilization.

2.5. City Councils

In this booklet, the historical evolution of city councils, their current situation, operation and how can join the city councils, the duties of the participants, and the problems about city councils are discussed, and City Councils' Regulations and operating elements are given and main bodies are explained. Moreover, UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UN Convention on the Elimination of Any Forms of Discrimination and Violence against Women, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities are presented in the book.

2.6. Metropolitan Governance

This includes the parts related to the metropolitan municipalities in the reports of Global Observatory on Decentralization and Local Democracy.

2.7. GOLD IV EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Executive Summary of the Fourth Global Report on Decentralization and Local Democracy (GOLD IV) has been translated into Turkish and Arabic and it has been published in Arabic, English, and Turkish which are two working languages of the UCLG-MEWA.

2.8. UCLG-MEWA Report of Activities for 2013-2016

It covers the period between two Congresses,

10 April 2013 and 19 April 2016, respectively organized in Tehran and Gaziantep. It refers to the activities such as strengthening membership base, developing relations with UCLG and members, and strengthening relations with other international institutions.

2.9. Migration Reports

Middle Eastern Urban Forced Migrants' Social Inclusion Policies Turkey and Lebanon: UCLG-MEWA Committee on Social Inclusion has developed with its city-members several projects in line with social inclusion needs of Syrians who were forced to leave their country to settle in one of Syria's neighboring countries. This report explores the role of municipalities of Turkey in the management of the Syrian migratory influx and their role as humanitarian and migration management actors. The study also highlights some best practices developed by its city members. Throughout this report, UCLG-MEWA provides keys of understanding for the international community to dedicate an enhanced consideration to municipalities as migration management actors and their integration in the humanitarian governance scheme.

2.10. UCLG-MEWA Constitution

The changes made in our congress held in Gaziantep on 10 April 10, 2016, were approved by the Turkish Interior Ministry and presented to the members.

2.11. New Urban Agenda and Bogota Commitment

The New Urban Agenda is the most important output of the United Nations Housing and Sustainable Urbanization Conference (Habitat III) in Quito, Ecuador in 2016. The Bogota Commitment, which is a guide for the implementation of the new Urban Agenda, has been published in Turkish, Arabic and English.

2.12. What Local Governments Need to Know About the Sustainable Development Goals

Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals

adopted by the UN is one of the main agenda items of the UCLG World Organization and UCLG-MEWA. In this context, this reference publication prepared by UCLG has been translated into Turkish and Arabic, which are our two other working languages, as part of the localization movement in our region. During the period, the publication was published in three languages.

2.13. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was adopted at the Third UN World Conference in Sendai, Japan, in 2015. In order to create more resilient cities that are on our agenda during the period, the necessary arrangements have been made and published in Turkish, English and Arabic languages.

2.14. UCLG-MEWA Sponsorship File

Based on the mutual acquisition principle, a study has been developed to improve the relations between UCLG-MEWA and different institutions and to explain the advantages of partnerships to partner institutions with UCLG-MEWA on the basis of activities. The publication is published in Turkish, English and Arabic.

2.15. UCLG-MEWA 2018-2020 Strategic Plan:

The publication of the priorities of UCLG-MEWA in Turkish, English and Arabic, based on global agendas until 2020, is adopted in the UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau held on 28 May 2018.

3. Activities within the Framework of the Capacity Building Trainings

In this reporting period covering between 19 April 2016-09 July 2019, activities conducted within the context of capacity development training are indicated below.

3.1. In-House Information Meeting: Sustainable Development Goals

2030 Sustainable Development Goals was adopted by 193 countries during the UN Summit held in the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 25-27 September 2015. Shaped on the basis of the Millennium Development Goals, the Sustainable Development Goals were provided a broader perspective for the development problems such as starvation, poverty, gender inequality, and lack of access to water and sanitation services. In this regard, relevant information were provided to the UCLG-MEWA staff during the period covered by this report.

3.2. Pulse Atelier

Nabız Atölyesi (Pulse Atelier) has provided a one-day training on 29 August 2016 for UCLG-MEWA Staff on how to cope with the stress in the workplace environment.

The training has been conducted by Yücel CONGUR, Relationships and Self- Transformation Consultant at Nabız Atölyesi. Within the framework of the training program titled “Be the Master of Your Own Life”, ways of reaching solutions needed with a personal and convenient approach were discussed. The certificates were presented to UCLG-MEWA Staff for their participation in the training on spotting problems experienced in business life and finding solutions to them in accordance with one’s life expectations.

3.3. UCLG Training for Administrative and Financial Officers Regarding EU Procedures

Organized by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), “Training for Administrative and Financial Officers Regarding EU Procedures”, took place on 9-10 February 2017, in Barcelona, Spain. Metin Özdemir, the then Coordinator of Administrative and Financial Affairs, and Salim Korkmaz, the then Coordinator of Relations with International Organizations, attended the training program, representing UCLG-MEWA.

The two-day training started with a speech by Emilia Saiz, UCLG Deputy Secretary General, on the strategic partnership between UCLG and the

European Commission (EC). After Ms. Saiz; Silvio Lazzari, the representative of the EC, touched upon the policies of the EC towards the local governments in her speech. The first day of the meeting ended with a presentation by Mariola Szek from UCLG Secretariat, on the UCLG procedures for administrative and financial affairs.

In the second day, independent advisors of the EC provided detailed information on the administrative and financial procedures of the Commission. The training program ended after an interactive session for participants and advisors.

3.4. Training of Trainers on the Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

On 25-26 May 2017, the program on Training of Trainers on the Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) was held for the representatives of regional sections and other relevant institutions. Emine Gökçe YANIK, UCLG-MEWA International Relations Department Project Officer, attended to the event organized by the UCLG World Secretariat. During the sessions of the event, the training kit and the ways to localize the implementation of SDGs at the local level were discussed. This event was also held for UCLG-MEWA personnel and staff on 7 July 2017 with the aim of raising awareness of participants and framing the theoretical background needed for further training in the upcoming terms.

3.5. UCLG-MEWA at Kırklareli University

The first guest of the conference series initiated by Kırklareli University Global Politics Club was Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary-General. The event was organized on 18 December 2018 at Kayalık Campus of the University with the participation of academicians and student clubs. The Conference has brought Sustainable Development Goals into the agenda of the academy.



The Conference has started with the presentation on the background of the Agenda 2030 by Salim Korkmaz, UCLG-MEWA General Coordinator. Briefing participants about the historical background of the concept of development, General Coordinator Korkmaz has presented detailed information on the Habitat Process and the New Urban Agenda.

Addressing participants in the Conference, Secretary-General Duman has emphasized that the main focus of global targets, which will remain on the international agenda until 2030, is based on three main axes namely, fighting against climate change, ending extreme poverty, and combating with inequality and injustice. He has further emphasized the important role that universities should play in achieving these goals. Comparing the SDGs with the Millenium Development Goals encompassing the period between 2000 and 2015, Secretary-General Duman has underlined Goal 11 as the success of UCLG since this goal symbolizes the inclusion of a local government relevant goal into the global agenda for the first time. He also pointed out the Goal 4 on Qualified Education. Underscoring that globalization has caused changing on universities, Secretary-General has stated that universities should update themselves in a way that they can respond to these changes, and they should review their responsibilities and organizational structures. He further underlined that universities today have become places of student-centered institutions with educational modules parallel with global development and entrepreneurial character seeking innovative human capital.

Indicating that Goal 4 stands out as the target with the biggest multiplier effect among 17 Goals, Mehmet Duman has emphasized that a qualified education is a basis for sustainable development on a global level and therefore educational institutions become more important every passing day. Secretary-General Duman concluded his speech by saying that educational institutions should be more visible in the field of cooperation and continuous improvement in the number of these institutions should be supported by the increase in the level of qualification.



3.6. UCLG LEARNING TRAINING

UCLG-MEWA which conducts its activities on the basis of Sustainable Development Goals has continued its training for the development of institutional capacity in order to better mobilize its members in line with the global agenda. Within this context, a training program for the UCLG-MEWA staff has been organized at the General Secretariat. Training has been facilitated by Raphael Sedlitzky, Representative of UCLG Learning, the unit responsible for the development of learning methodology and policies of the UCLG World Organization.

In this training, participants firstly reviewed the content and scope of the modules defined by the UCLG to localize the SDGs. As for Module 1 on "Raising Awareness", participants held learning activities. As for Module 2 on "Alignment" and Module 3 on "Reporting", UCLG representative presented the main approach adopted by the World Organization.

Among these methodologies, Module 1 and Module 2 were already applied by UCLG-MEWA during the workshops held within the context of Pilot Project on Mapping the SDGs in Turkey, which was launched in July 2018. UCLG-MEWA plans to disseminate this project in the other countries the MEWA Region.

4. UCLG-MEWA Talks

In this reporting period covering between 19 April 2016-09 July 2019, activities conducted within the context of local government talks are indicated below.

4.1. ‘For Whom the Middle East Will be a Swamp’



“UCLG-MEWA Local Governments Talks”, initiated by United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section (UCLG-MEWA), continued to gather the friends of local governments under its new title, “UCLG-MEWA Talks”.

Within this framework, the first talk was delivered by Prof. Ebubekir Sofuoğlu, Lecturer at Sakarya University, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, on 18 May 2016. Prof. Dr. Sofuoğlu commented on the recent events occurred in the Middle East during his talk, titled “For Whom the Middle East Will Be a Swamp?”.

Prof. Sofuoğlu started his speech by commenting on the modernization process from Ottomans to the present time. “We have been transforming, and as we transform, our civilization gets lost. Instead, we should get to the roots of our civilization” said Prof. Sofuoğlu, commenting on modernization especially in terms of East-West axis. During his talk, during which finding solutions to the conflicts in the region is also discussed, Prof. Sofuoğlu said that the results

of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) 13th Islamic Summit, held in Istanbul, Turkey on April 14-15, 2016, could also be helpful to establish peace in the region.

4.2. Sustainable Urbanization



The first UCLG-MEWA Talk of 2017 discussed the issue of “the cultural dimension of the sustainable urbanization” at UCLG-MEWA Secretariat General.

Held on 28 February 2017, the first Talk mainly focused on the protection of cultural property and landscaping, and provided a general framework for sustainable urbanization, and given by Prof. İclal Sema Dinçer, Lecturer at Yıldız Technical University, Faculty of Architecture, Department of City and Regional Planning, Division of City Planning, and Director of ICOMOS Turkey.

4.3. Sustainable Development with a Focus on Gender Equality



Held on 13 April 2017, the third Talk focused on the issue of gender equality within the context

of the 5th Sustainable Development Goal. Many representatives from local governments, non-governmental organizations and citizens' assemblies participated in the Talk, which was lectured by Meryem Aslan, OXFAM Country Director for Turkey. Expressing that the United Nations is an important part of the governance mechanism, Ms. Aslan gave an outline of the Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals. Emphasizing that states are taking responsibility to eradicate inequalities by means of these goals, she also discussed the concept of gender equality with participants and addressed the extent to which this concept is understood and implemented at the local level.

4.4. 'Middle East and Culture'



The UCLG-MEWA Talk on Middle East and Culture was held on 27 November 2017, just before the 3rd Meeting of the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Culture, under the auspices of the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality.

During his Talk themed "Middle East and Culture," Abdurrahman Şen, Head of the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality Culture Department, touched upon the importance of culture throughout the world, together with the cultural trends in the MEWA region and multi-stakeholder responsibility areas on the protection of cultural heritage.

4.5. Gastronomy Tourism and Brand Cities

Gürkan Boztepe, President of Gastronomy Tourism Association (GTD), gave a talk on Gastronomy Tourism and Brand Cities, Within the scope of the first UCLG-MEWA Local Government Talk in

2018. Organized under the heading "Gastronomy Tourism and Brand Cities", the program has hosted discussions on the strengthening of the brand value of the cities through their food culture.



Noting that they seek to come forward the Turkish products and Turkish cuisine, Boztepe has underlined that the own values of the countries should be disseminated throughout the world and some standards should be developed in this regard.

The program, organized within the framework of SDG 11 emphasizing the protection of cultural heritage, has ended following the exchange of participants about the brand values of their cities.

4.6. Local Governments and Health Within the Axis of Goal 3



Ali Murat Duman, President of Istanbul Health Platform, became a speaker on Local Governments and Health, within the scope of its activities in the World Health Week. Organized on 12 April 2018, at UCLG-MEWA Headquarters in Sultanahmet, Istanbul; the program was framed around the SDG 3

on Good Health and Well Being. Within the context of the World Health Week, UCLG-MEWA also organized a blood donation campaign on 5 April 2018, together with Turkish Red Crescent. Following this campaign, with an aim to approach SDG 3 on ensuring healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, with a local perspective, UCLG-MEWA has organized this Talk to evaluate the health services in local governments.

Highlighting the importance of the recent reforms in the health sector, Mr. Duman has talked about the impact of recent reforms in public administration on the relation between local governments and health, the current situation of health services being affected as a result of increasing population with migration in cities, and the need areas of local governments regarding the implementation of SDGs.

Mr. Duman pointed out that the stronger the localization is, the faster the development will be. In the field of health; increasing in localization will also increase the efficiency, he has said. During his speech, he touched upon the importance of education in raising awareness. Within this scope, UCLG-MEWA could provide training for local governments to build awareness, he has added on. Before concluding his speech, Mr. Duman has talked about SDG 3 and underscored the importance of UCLG-MEWA's works for disseminating the SDGs in the region.

4.7. Energy Efficiency at Buildings and Design Principles



The third session of UCLG-MEWA Local Government Talks in 2018 hosted Prof. Dr. Ümit Doğay Arınç, as a speaker. Organized with the theme “Energy Efficiency at Buildings and Design Principles,” the event have brought many public and private sector representatives together.

Based on the SDG 7 on “Affordable and Clean Energy” and the SDG 11 on “Sustainable City and Communities;” Prof. Arınç highlighted that energy consumption of the buildings could be reduced if they were designed with thermal insulation. He further talked about the ratio of the ideal area of windows over the front area and the importance of this ratio on energy efficiency.

Prof. Arınç lastly touched upon the possibilities of utilization of clean energy resources, decreasing carbon emissions and creating areas for sustainable cities through energy-efficient buildings, before concluding his Talk.

4.8. Green Space Sustainability In Metropolises



Mr. İsmail Güral, Member of the Advisory Board of Istanbul Tulip Foundation, was the guest speaker of UCLG-MEWA Local Government Talk held on 26 July 2018, at UCLG-MEWA General Secretariat, in Istanbul, Turkey.

During his remarks as the speaker of the Talk on Green Space Sustainability in Metropolises, Mr. Güral referred to the importance of Public Gardens project, highlighting its importance for cultural values and future sustainability.

Talking about Istanbul Tulip Foundation's tulip onion planting activities with students every year since 2013, in cooperation with the Ministry of National Education of Turkey; Mr. Güral also added

that they are developing a sense of belonging to the environment among students, by giving their names to each tulip planted.

Mr. Güral also underlined the historical adventure and cultural importance of the tulip, and mentioned one of the important figures in Turkish history, Matrakçı Nasuh, who was carrying the cultural codes from past to future with the miniature of Istanbul. With the same aim in our minds, the cultural values should be transferred to the future; he further added.

Speaking after the Q&A session, Mr. Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, stated the importance of the landscaping works in Istanbul. Secretary General Duman also added that with the distance education system, the similar works will be shared with Gaza and the West Bank, with an aim to provide experience-sharing and knowledge dissemination among the local governments of the MEWA region.

At the end of the Talk, Secretary General Duman presented a plaque to Mr. Güral, in memory of the day. The program was concluded after the souvenir photos taken with all participants.

4.9. The Relations of Sustainability, Education, and Waqfs



UCLG-MEWA organized another episode of UCLG-MEWA Local Government Talks, with the Talk by Dr. Kamalin Shaath, former President of the Islamic University of Gaza, and Chairman of Hope Foundation for Education, on 23 October 2018, in its General Secretariat. Framing his Talk around the SDG 4 about “ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all”, Dr. Shaath shared his experience on the direct relation among three important concepts: sustainability, education, and waqfs.

“The foundation for sustainability is education, and the foundation of education is waqfs. Without the waqfs, we cannot have a good and strong education, and without a good and strong education, our societies cannot be sustainable. Therefore, the foundation must be strong, namely, the waqfs, because it is waqfs that support all projects and works that build education, from which sustainability is achieved.” has said Dr. Shaath in his Talk. He has added that education was not just one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, but rather laying a foundation for the remaining 16 Goals, as the SDG 4 was the only goal that directly affected the rest of the Goals. Dr. “Without education, poverty, and ignorance cannot be eradicated. Without education, diseases cannot be eradicated,” said Dr. Shaath. He also explained the stages of education at the Islamic University in Gaza, from the beginning of the establishment and the problems they faced from the Israeli occupation until it reached the strongest university in Palestine. He has also talked about the types and forms of waqfs from ancient times to the present day, and that there was no private university that existed so far unless there is a waqf providing financial support.

After the Q&A session; Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, spoke about the importance of education, highlighting the cruciality of waqfs, especially in Turkey. He further explained the rotation system in waqf ownership, which basically means to transfer it to other parties

and then returning to the main owner. Secretary General Duman also added that with the distance learning system, similar work can be carried out in Gaza, the West Bank and all countries in the MEWA Region, with the aim of exchanging experiences and spreading knowledge among local governments in the region. Ali 45 participants from Palestine, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Yemen and Turkey were invited to attend all the lectures of the organization to benefit and transfer experiences to the local governments in their countries.

At the end of the Talk, Secretary General Duman has presented a commemorative plaque to Dr. Kamelin Shaath, and the program was concluded with souvenir photos with all participants.

4.10. Human Capital, Qualified Education, and Development



Local government talks, coordinated by UCLG-MEWA in the context of Sustainable Development Goals, raise awareness and consciousness without slowing down. In March 2019, the guest of the talk was Prof.Dr. Talip Küçükcan.

The education issue within the 2030 Agenda, has determined by the United Nations, take a significant place. In fact, Goal 4 focusing on “Qualified Education” stands out as the target with the most

multiplier effect on other targets. It appears that the education subject on each of the issues such as eradicating poverty, gender equality, increasing employment and reducing inequalities between different disadvantaged groups determinant. Again, Goal 4 has stands out as the target with the most decisive influence on the Goal 8, which addresses the issue of “Decent Work and Economic Growth” In particular, the impact of these two goals on sustainable development was discussed under the title of “Qualified Education and Development” on 21 March 2019 at the UCLG-MEWA General Secretariat.

Especially, Prof.Dr. Talip Küçükcan, who is mentioned most often with his works in the field of sociology, focuses on the role of education in qualified development subject during the interview. Stating that neither socio-cultural nor economic development can be achieved if we do not invest in human capital, Prof. Dr. Küçükcan underlined the importance of making use of the advantage of migration. Küçükcan has stated that, in the first stage, universities should focus on the development of qualified people. He added that, in this way, the individuals who are equipped with these qualifications, will be high the rate of labor force participation.