UCLG-MEWA REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

2019-2022 Presidential Term

9 July 2019 - 30 April 2022

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“We are in an ecological doom. In this sense, local governments, NGOs, and the structures at the local level can be politicized more easily and move faster. During this period where our common fate is being determined, international local government organizations such as UCLG-MEWA will leave significant marks for the future.”

Arch. Dr. Kadir Topbaş
UCLG President for the 2010-2016 Period
UCLG-MEWA Founding President

UCLG-MEWA Retreat
Istanbul, 2019

WITH MERCY AND LONGING FOR OUR FOUNDING PRESIDENT...
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My three-year term as President of UCLG-MEWA has come to an end. These last three years have been full of many things, in my opinion.

We have all witnessed different challenging events, both locally, regionally, and globally. The most important of these events, of course, is COVID-19. This pandemic has dramatically changed the course of our lives by capturing the whole world. During the pandemic, cities and entire institutions were forced to close. During this tough time, municipalities, in particular, had to take the lead and change all their strategic priorities in the direction required by the new situation.

The MEWA Region faced various conflicts and disagreements during this period. These issues have a negative impact on public services and mobility between countries. Speaking of mobility, it is crucial to realize that Palestinians still face this problem.

In a global sense, various negativities have occurred in different parts of the world; social, ethnic, and environ-

MOHAMAD SAADIE
UCLG-MEWA President
mental issues resulting from wars and economic crises are only a few of the crises we confront. Counting the crises that occurred throughout this time period is challenging enough.

While all of this was going on, UCLG managed to gather municipalities from different parts of the world, especially metropolitan cities, under its roof in a short time. Thus, these municipalities become part of a platform where everyone tries to improve themselves, share their experiences, and present their best practices for the benefit of others.

In this regard, municipalities have a great responsibility during times of challenges, crises, and emergencies. On the other side, we now have a greater understanding of the importance of UCLG-MEWA’s position in our region. UCLG-MEWA gained the interest and support of all its members thanks to its all-inclusive approach and the thematic work implemented by its committees.

These efforts were followed with interest both in the MEWA Region and all over the world. We have seen that UN agencies also appreciate these activities and the work carried out by the nine sections of UCLG. Without a doubt, Secretary General Mr. Mehmet Duman and his team have put in tremendous work in this regard.

With great honor, I must say that this period of my Presidency at UCLG-MEWA was one of the most beautiful phases of my career. Despite the difficulties experienced in our region, especially in Lebanon, I have always worked in line with the promise I made to myself when I was elected president: I would work with the same enthusiasm as on the first day. During this time, we achieved considerable success in many areas. Furthermore, we were unable to make the progress we desired on some topics due to the difficult period we are going through.

I would like to thank all my friends who worked with me throughout this time and wish them success for the future. I send my best wishes to the next President who will take over the UCLG-MEWA Presidency after me, and I promise in advance that I will provide my assistance in any way necessary on this path.

I would like to express my gratitude and respect to everyone.
Dear Members and Stakeholders,

We have left behind another period of activity of our organization. This period, in which we had quite intense and productive times as secretariat, was actually a visible form of the test that all institutions had to answer in terms of crisis management. The way and speed with which the institutions respond to the changing and diversifying needs of the pandemic determined the success level of this test. In another aspect, this time, we measured the phenomenon called urban resilience not in the context of different issues experienced in different geographies, but in the context of the common agenda of the whole world. Of course, there was no pre-written and validated roadmap for this process. For this reason, we tried to get through this period with the least damage by learning together, teaching each other, and sharing our shortcomings and successes with each other. As in the whole world, we can summarize the 2019-2022 period in the Middle East and West Asia Region in these general terms.

MEHMET DUMAN
UCLG-MEWA Secretary General
Challenges brought with them a number of opportunities during this time. Given the better understanding of the critical role that city administrations play in such crisis situations, the job fell upon the shoulders of cities, so to speak. Especially with the widespread use of digital platforms, all borders were removed and the dialogue and cooperation between cities gained strength. Our Organization, which operates in such a fragile geography as the Middle East and West Asia, made a special effort to disseminate the experiences of the cities during this period. The dialogue process, which started with the talks we held with the participation of local leaders, was also an important opportunity for long-term cooperation. Covid-19, which was the common agenda of all of us throughout a significant part of the reporting period, brought together cities with different administrative structures and different socio-economic characteristics, thus strengthening the spirit of cooperation and solidarity. We can say that this is the most important plus of this difficult process.

During this time, as an Organization, we have made significant progress in moving our work, which we had previously laid the foundations of, to the next level. While we were carrying out awareness activities on global agendas in 2018 and early 2019, we are now witnessing a period in which our cities themselves are on global platforms. It is a pleasure for us to reap the fruits of a process we support as an organization in this way. I hope that in the next period, we will follow these processes closely with more cities from the MEWA Region and raise our voices more strongly in the building of a global agenda in line with the dynamics of the region.

Of course, all these points I have mentioned are the result of teamwork and intense efforts. The thematic activities that we have undertaken for three years through our committees, our administrative meetings where the roadmaps of these activities were drawn, the programs in which we shared our regional perspectives, and many other activities fed off each other and determined the present situation. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our term president, Mr. Mohamed Saadie, the President of the Union of Dannieh Municipalities, as well as our presidency, the members of the committees’ presidencies, and all our members and stakeholders who contributed to our activities and made us feel like we were part of a big family. I also would like to thank all my colleagues in the UCLG-MEWA Secretariat for their hard work and contributions to our organization.

I commemorate with mercy and longing my esteemed brother, Arch. Dr. Kadir Topbaş, the founding president of our Organization and the president of UCLG for the 2010-2016 period, who passed away last year. He was the one who opened all these doors for us, and we will endeavor to maintain the dedication he has shown to UCLG-MEWA with the same sensitivity.

I wish to congratulate our 2022-2025 presidential term in advance. Stay healthy!
1. ABOUT UCLG-MEWA

1.1. History
1.2. Organizational Structure
1.3. Presidency for 2019-2022 Period
1.4. Membership Movements and Financial Status
1.5. UCLG-MEWA Committees’ Presidencies for 2019-2022 Period
1. ABOUT UCLG-MEWA

1.1. History

Our organization was founded with the Republic of Turkey Council of Ministers’ decision dated 11.09.1987 and numbered 87/12105, under the name of “International Union of Local Authorities Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East Section-Center for Local Government Training and Development in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East,” in Istanbul as an organization affiliated to the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA), whose legal center was located in Brussels and the administrative center in The Hague, and it currently continues its activities in its general secretariat located in Istanbul.

IULA, which was our central organization in the process and has been working in the field of local governments since 1913; the FMCU-UTO (Fédération Mondiale de Cités Unies-United Towns Organization), which has been working on strengthening local governments globally since 1957; and METROPOLIS, established in 1985 to represent metropolitan areas across the world, gathered and took the decision of unification on 05.05.2004 in Paris, France; and so, they held the Founding Congress of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).

According to the decisions taken and the UCLG Constitution adopted, following the merger, the IULA was abolished and it continued to carry out its activities under the name of “United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)”. The legal and administrative headquarters of the new organization was relocated to Barcelona. The International Union of Local Authorities Section for the Eastern Mediterranean and Middle East Region-Center for Local Government Training and Development in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Middle East (IULA-EMME) held its General Assembly in Paris, France on the same day, in parallel with the last General Assembly of IULA, to which it is affiliated, held on 05.05.2004. In line with the decisions taken at the Congress, IULA was renamed “United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section (UCLG-MEWA)” in accordance with the name of its world organization, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), and the UCLG-MEWA Constitution was adopted.
1.2. Organizational Structure

As per Article 32 of the UCLG-MEWA Constitution, UCLG-MEWA bodies are as follows: General Assembly, Council, Executive Bureau, President and Co-Presidents, Supervisory Board / Financial Management Committee, 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 and convenes annually.

**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 Executive Bureau**

is responsible for carrying out the decisions and proposals of the UCLG-MEWA Council and for any other duties delegated to it by the UCLG-MEWA Council. It is in charge of UCLG-MEWA's administrative and financial management.

**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. It ensures the continuity of the fundamental policies of the organization between Executive Bureau meetings. The President is elected by the UCLG-MEWA Council to serve for a term between two ordinary sessions of the UCLG-MEWA General Assembly.
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.

Treasurer

is responsible for the oversight of the financial strategy, accounting, and management of UCLG-MEWA’s finances. The Treasurer, who chairs the five-person Supervisory Board/Financial Management Committee, is elected by the UCLG-MEWA Council to serve for a period between two ordinary sessions of the UCLG-MEWA General Assembly.

UCLG-MEWA Ombudsman

is the body where individuals or local governments who believe they are negatively affected by the decisions and implementations of the UCLG-MEWA governing bodies can apply and ask for a 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 basic executive body of UCLG-MEWA. S/he directs the daily activities of UCLG-MEWA and carries 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 personnel, manages daily activities, and has full authorization to work with banks and other credit institutions, order payments, execute all kinds of contracts and represent UCLG-MEWA before public administrations and courts as the legal representative of UCLG-MEWA on behalf of the Executive Bureau. The Secretary General is elected and dismissed by the UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau.
1.3. Presidency for 2019-2022 Period

In line with the decision taken at the UCLG-MEWA Congress held in Amman, Jordan, on 9-11 July 2019, the term presidency of the Organization passed from Fatma Şahin, Mayor of Gaziantep, to Mohamed Saadie, President of the Union of Dannieh Municipalities (Lebanon). The changing presidency and the Executive Bureau of the organization are given in the table below:
1.4. Membership Movements and Financial Status

This part of the report includes UCLG-MEWA’s membership movements and financial issues during the period. During the period, some work was carried out to make the members active, and within this scope, as the secretariat, facilitation was provided in making final decisions in line with the reports submitted to the authorized bodies of UCLG-MEWA regarding the taking of decisions on the members who completed the membership initiation process but did not meet the necessary conditions and could not be active.

During the period, the collection status of the membership fees that UCLG-MEWA members are obliged to pay in order to strengthen their corporate belonging was analyzed, and reporting was carried out based on membership movements and studies on the membership fees, which constitute the largest income item of UCLG-MEWA, to be submitted to UCLG-MEWA bodies. With these reports, it was aimed to increase the number of active members.

1.4.1. UCLG-MEWA 2019-2022 Membership Status

As reflected in Chart-1, an increase is observed in the number of members until 2022, and there has been a decrease in the number of members due to the memberships that have been deactivated or terminated in line with the decisions taken by the relevant organs of UCLG-MEWA regarding the inactive members, following the work done at the beginning of 2022. Although there is a decrease in the total number of members, it is possible to ensure a more effective representation with the current number of active members.

1.4.2. UCLG-MEWA 2019-2022 Member Distribution

When the distribution of the members among the countries in the region during the UCLG-MEWA 2019-2022 period of activity, as can be seen in Chart-2, is analyzed, it can be observed that the majority consists of the local governments of Turkey, Lebanon, and Palestine.

1.4.3. Membership Fees

> UCLG-MEWA 2019-2022 Fee Collection Rates

In the UCLG-MEWA 2019-2022 period, the rate of fee collection to total members by each year was realized as reflected in Chart-3. Due to the political and economic problems in the region, fees cannot be collected at the required level from the few members in many countries, which impedes the adequate representation in both UCLG and UCLG-MEWA bodies.
2019 Fee Collection Rates of UCLG-MEWA Countries

Although the fee collection rate of the countries in the UCLG-MEWA region on a country basis in 2019 was not at the desired level, partial success was achieved in the collection of fees since it was the congress year. In this case, the requirement that UCLG-MEWA members have no debt except for the congress year in order to have the right to vote for and be elected to UCLG and UCLG-MEWA bodies had an effect on this success.

Chart-4 Fee Collection Rates by Country in 2019

2020 Fee Collection Rates of UCLG-MEWA Countries

In 2020, the fees of the Turkish municipalities that do not have the metropolitan status have started to be collected automatically. For this reason, there has been a significant increase in the rate of the collection of fees. Due to the economic problems caused by COVID-19 and other reasons affecting the region, the desired levels of country diversity and fee collection rates could not be reached.

Chart-5 Fee Collection Rates by Country in 2020

2021 Fee Collection Rates of UCLG-MEWA Countries

In 2021, the fees of non-metropolitan municipalities in Turkey continued to be collected automatically. Therefore, the positive momentum that had started in 2020 continued in 2021 as well. The continuation of the problems in countries where UCLG-MEWA members are concentrated has also been reflected in the rates of the collection of fees. In addition, the large number of members, mostly from Lebanon, who requested exemptions was also effective in the low fee collection rates.

Chart-6 Fee Collection Rates by Country in 2021

2019-2021 Fee Collection Rates in Countries in the Region

Chart-7 below demonstrates the distribution of the number of members who paid their fees in the 2019-2021 period by country. It is seen that the members paying their membership fees in the region are mostly from Turkey, followed by Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, TRNC, Iran and Afghanistan, respectively. This emerging picture is the main reason for the lack of country diversity in UCLG and UCLG-MEWA bodies.

Chart-7 Fee Collection Rates by Countries
1.5. **UCLG-MEWA Committees’ Presidencies for 2019-2022 Period**

UCLG-MEWA Committees operate within the Organization and were established in parallel with the UCLG World Organization. These committees are platforms that are structured according to each working area and are responsible for arranging/leading meetings or activities to allow our UCLG-MEWA members to exchange ideas and experiences, engaging in advocacy work before national governments or international organizations, and designing projects.

Along with the changing governing body of UCLG-MEWA, the governing bodies of the committees for the new period were also determined. In order to operate more effectively in the new period and avoid duplication of efforts, it was decided to merge some of the committees that the Organization had previously formed into 9 thematic areas. Accordingly,

The Committee on Smart Cities and the Committee on Urban Mobility merged under the name of the **Committee on Smart Cities and Urban Mobility**,

The Committee on Culture and the Committee on Tourism merged under the name of the **Committee on Culture and Tourism**,

And the Committee on Development, Cooperation and City Diplomacy and the Committee on Local Governance merged and started to operate under the name of the **Committee on City Diplomacy and Local Governance**.

The renewed presidencies of the committees, which started to operate under 6 thematic headings in the new period, are given in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMITTEE NAME</th>
<th>COMMITTEE PRESIDENCY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SMART CITIES AND URBAN MOBILITY</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ramallah Municipality</td>
<td>PRESIDENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Amman Municipality</td>
<td>CO-PRESIDENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asira Al Shamalia Municipality</td>
<td>CO-PRESIDENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality</td>
<td>CO-PRESIDENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nablus Municipality</td>
<td>CO-PRESIDENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Şanlıurfa Metropolitan Municipality</td>
<td>CO-PRESIDENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tabriz Municipality</td>
<td>CO-PRESIDENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ENVIRONMENT</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Balıkesir Metropolitan Municipality</td>
<td>PRESIDENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality</td>
<td>CO-PRESIDENT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Güzelyurt Municipality</td>
<td>CO-PRESIDENT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality</td>
<td>CO-PRESIDENT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ramallah Municipality</td>
<td>CO-PRESIDENT</td>
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<tr>
<td>Şanlıurfa Metropolitan Municipality</td>
<td>CO-PRESIDENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tabriz Municipality</td>
<td>CO-PRESIDENT</td>
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<td>COMMITTEE NAME</td>
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<tr>
<td>CITY DIPLOMACY AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE</td>
<td>Union of Municipalities of Turkey (UMT)</td>
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<td>Ankara Metropolitan Municipality</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Asira Al Shamalia Municipity</td>
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<td>Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality</td>
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<td>Izmir Metropolitan Municipality</td>
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<td>COMMITTEE NAME</td>
<td>COMMITTEE PRESIDENCY</td>
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<tr>
<td>CULTURE AND TOURISM</td>
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<td>Balikesir Metropolitan Municipality</td>
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<td>COMMITTEE NAME</td>
<td>COMMITTEE PRESIDENCY</td>
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<td>SOCIAL INCLUSION</td>
<td>Mersin Metropolitan Municipality</td>
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<td>Beylikdüzü Municipality</td>
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<td>Greater Irbid Municipality</td>
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<td>Saida Municipality</td>
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<td>COMMITTEE NAME</td>
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<td>GENDER EQUALITY</td>
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<td>Beyarmudu Municipality</td>
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2. REGIONAL AGENDA AND ACTIVITIES

2.1. Disadvantaged Groups and Equality
2.2. Migration & Social Cohesion
2.3. Fighting Against and Adapting to Climate Change
2.4. Urban Resilience
2.5. Local Development & Governance
2. REGIONAL AGENDA AND ACTIVITIES

With the Congress held by UCLG-MEWA in Amman in 2019, the new governing body to serve for three years and the corporate strategy of the Organization were determined. Priority areas, which were evaluated in a participatory process with the members and stakeholders of the Organization at the UCLG-MEWA Retreat initiated in 2018, also shed light on the corporate strategy of the new period. Accordingly,

- Disadvantaged Groups and Equality
- Migration & Social Cohesion
- Fighting Against and Adapting to Climate Change
- Urban Resilience
- Local Development and Governance

were approved by the UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau as the strategic priorities of the Organization for the 2019-2022 period of activity. The thematic activities carried out during the 2019-2022 period of activity of UCLG-MEWA have been aligned with the priority areas, the details of which are given below, and are accordingly reflected in this report.

2.1. Disadvantaged Groups and Equality

The Middle East and West Asia Region represents a geography where some groups face the risk of poverty, social exclusion, discrimination, and violence more than the general population. Conflicts in the countries of the region, occupation conditions, and economic crises cause many city residents to be deprived of their basic rights. In addition to these difficulties, the fact that the individual has a disadvantage such as old age, homelessness, disability, etc. brings with it the situation of multiple disadvantages. Local governments are the primary actors in meeting the needs that arise within the framework of these conditions in the region.

Activities:

2.1.1. MEWA Workshop on Accessible Tourism

The MEWA Workshop on Accessible Tourism was held in Kyrenia, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, on 21-22 October 2021, hosted by the Municipality of Kyrenia, President of the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Culture and Tourism. The workshop, which was held in a hybrid format and lasted for 2 days, brought together mayors, local government representatives, non-governmental organizations, central government officials, international organizations, academics, and tourism sector representatives. An “Accessibility Guide” will be prepared for cities as the output of the workshop, which consisted of trainings, presentations, panels, and roundtables.
2.1.2. “Monitoring Equality in Municipalities” Project

UCLG-MEWA and the Association for Supporting Women Candidates (KA.DER) carried out a project called “Monitoring Equality in Municipalities” for municipalities in Turkey in order to institutionalize equality work in municipalities and monitor the commitment letters signed by them. Responding to the call made to municipalities that have signed the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Gender Equality’s Commitment to the Localization of Sustainable Development Goal 5, and KA.DER’s Women-Friendly City Commitment, Izmir Metropolitan Municipality, Kütahya Municipality, Eyyübiye Municipality, Mersin Metropolitan Municipality, Çukurova Municipality, Beylikdüzü Municipality, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, and Ordu Metropolitan Municipality were the places where this work was carried out. Two surveys were conducted with the municipalities involved in the project, at an interval of six months, and in-depth interviews were carried out by visiting the municipalities involved in the project in the period between the two surveys. Interviews were made with the representatives of the municipal departments that carry out women’s and family studies. During the interviews, the efforts made for the monitoring of the commitment letters were evaluated through the survey questions. The final report of the 1-year project, which started in 2020 and postponed its activities due to the pandemic, will be published in 2022.

2.1.3. Homelessness Studies

UCLG-MEWA’s social inclusion agenda, which focuses more on migration, has also started to focus on homelessness studies as of this reporting period. This agenda, which started with literature reviews, continues with the preparation of pilot studies to be developed in cooperation with local actors. As a result of the meetings between the Çorbada Tuzun Olsun Association, which operates in Turkey and works on homelessness, and UCLG-MEWA, it is planned to start a pilot study on homelessness and spread these studies throughout the region.

2.1.4. “Human-Centered Approaches in Local Governments” Talks

Talks are held with the participation of representatives from different disciplines at the Medrese Davutpaşa Local Governments School which was opened by Fatih Municipality for graduate and doctoral students. UCLG-MEWA Committee on Social Inclusion Officer Yehia Ibrahim attended the program organized on the occasion of December 10, Human Rights Day, and gave a talk on Human-Centered Approaches in Local Governments.
2.2. Migration & Social Cohesion

According to UNHCR 2021 data, Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, and Iran host approximately 6.5 million registered asylum seekers and refugees in total. Migration management is among the most critical topics at the local level in the MEWA Region, which hosts the countries that rank first in global statistics on migration. The different cultural codes that come together as a result of the immigration waves create a need for social cohesion studies and impose a responsibility on local governments in this regard.

Activities:

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

The workshop, which was organized for the communities hosting refugees in the Middle East, was held between February 12-15, 2019 with the participation of the municipalities at the technical level. The workshop, which was held in Germany within the framework of the Qudra Program in partnership with UCLG-MEWA, GIZ, and Connective Cities, was organized as a continuation of the workshop held in Istanbul between November 8-10. In the program, which also included field visits, experts from municipalities in Turkey and Germany exchanged technical information and developed project ideas.

2.2.2. Activities of the Global Task Force on Migration (GTFM)

The Global Task Force on Migration, which was established as a result of the International Forum on Local Solutions to Migration and Displacement, hosted by Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality on 26-27 November 2019, completed its first period of activity. UCLG-MEWA, UNDP, UNHCR, IOM, the Union of Municipalities of Turkey, Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality, and World Academy of Local Government and Democracy (WALD), which are the members of the Steering Committee of the GTFM that was established as the monitoring mechanism of the Gaziantep Declaration announced within the scope of the Forum, coordinated the content development and participation processes of the activities by organizing preparatory meetings from time to time.

The activities of the Global Task Force on Migration (GTFM), whose secretariat work is followed by UCLG-MEWA, during this reporting period are as follows:

➤ GTFM Kick-off Meeting

The first meeting of the GTFM was held online on September 30, 2020. At the meeting that brought together the GTFM Steering Committee and signatories of the Gaziantep Declaration, the work carried out for migration and refugees was shared, and the roadmap of the first cycle of the GTFM was also shared. In addition to the GTFM Steering Committee members, Mersin Metropolitan Municipality, serving as the President of the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Social Inclusion, Saida (Lebanon) Municipality,
serving as the Co-President of the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Social Inclusion, Mayors Migration Council, Open Society Foundation, and representatives from Durban (Africa) Municipality participated as speakers.

➢ **Webinar on “The Importance of Multi-Level Governance to Ensure Effective Local Responses to Migration and Displacement”**

After the kick-off meeting, the GTFM organized a webinar on “The Importance of Multi-Level Governance to Ensure Effective Local Responses to Migration and Displacement” on February 3, 2021. In the session titled “The Role of Small and Medium-Sized Cities in Accelerating Stability,” moderated by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), representatives from UCLG, UCLG Africa Section, Sombor Municipality in Serbia, and Municipality of Campillos in Spain shared their presentations.

➢ **Webinar on “Migrants & Refugees’ Access to Labor Markets”**

GTFM’s third online program was held under the theme of “Migrants’ & Refugees’ Access to Labor Markets: Towards Equality for Workers.” In the program held on May 11, 2021, experiences were shared through the presentations made by the International Labor Organization, Asian Mayors Forum, Yildiz Technical University, UNHCR, Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality, Syrian Economic Forum, and Skillab representatives.

➢ **GTFM Annual Review Meeting: Evaluation and the Way Forward**

The Global Task Force on Migration, which was established as the monitoring mechanism of the Gaziantep Declaration announced in 2019, completed its first cycle of events in 2021. In order to inform about the work of the completed activity period, the Annual Review Meeting was held as the thematic event of the UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau and Council Joint Meeting hosted by Balıkesir Metropolitan Municipality on November 11, 2021. Following the presentation of the term’s activities at the meeting, a panel called “Local Government Finance in the Context of Migration and Refugees” was organized. Representatives from Turkey, Lebanon, Spain, and Italy also participated in the aforementioned panel, in which Louisa Vinton, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Program, was the keynote speaker.
2.2.3. Webinar on Fostering Employment and Entrepreneurship for Locals and Refugees

The first webinar titled “Fostering Employment and Entrepreneurship for Locals and Refugees: New Challenges from Covid-19 Crisis for Host Local Authorities – Part 1” of the training series “Jobs, Entrepreneurship and Private Sector Engagement in Host Communities: Adapting to the COVID-19 Crisis” was held on 27 May 2020. This Training Series was organized by the Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI) and the World Bank Group in collaboration with the French Development Agency (AFD), Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (German Corporation for International Cooperation - GIZ), International Labour Organization (ILO), UCLG-MEWA, World Academy for Local Government and Democracy (WALD), UN-Habitat, and UNHCR.

The online training series of the Mediterranean Host Municipalities Learning Network (HMLN) focuses on fostering private sector-driven solutions to create jobs and entrepreneurship opportunities for locals and forcibly displaced communities. It explores the key role of host local authorities in providing a better local economic environment, including in their efforts to address the COVID-19 crisis and recovery.

2.3. Fighting Against and Adapting to Climate Change

Climate change is stated as the greatest threat facing the world in the UN Sustainable Goals, the Paris Agreement, and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, which are among the recent global agreements. The ecological balance, which is deteriorating with climate change, stands in front of humanity as a factor that complicates the living conditions of both the current generation and future generations. According to UN Habitat, cities are responsible for 78% of global energy consumption and more than 60% of global greenhouse gas emissions. Considering this situation, it is seen that the city administrations are also at the center of the solution to the problem.

Activities:

2.3.1. Webinar on “Why Measure, Monitor, and Manage Environmental Data?”

In collaboration with the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Environment, Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), and Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), the webinar on “Why Measure, Monitor, and Manage Environmental Data?” was held on June 23, 2020. The program addressed the
importance of data-based decision-making for climate action at the city level. The benefits of reporting data through the CDP-ICLEI unified reporting system were shared with the participants. Also, the reporting process of Izmir Metropolitan Municipality was shared with the participants.

2.3.2. Global-Regional Coordination Project

The Global-Regional Coordination Project, initiated in July 2021 by UCLG, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM), and the World Secretariat of the Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), aims to increase coordination between institutions for climate action. The first phase of the project, in which UCLG-MEWA is also included, was completed between 1 June 2021 and 31 December 2021, and the second phase was completed between 1 January 2022 - 31 March 2022. The work carried out in both phases is summarized below:

- **First Phase Activities**

  The activities of the first phase of the project were planned according to the outputs obtained from the Policy Alignment Workshop held on January 21, 2021. The workshop in question was organized online under the theme of “Greener and Cleaner Recovery: Climate Priorities in the Post-COVID Era” in order to map the climate policies and needs in the region. Making use of the results of the workshop held with the participation of Prof. Dr. Lütfi Akça, Member of the Presidential Board of Local Government Policies of the Republic of Turkey; Yücel Yılmaz, President of the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Environment and Mayor of Balıkesir; and Abdal-lah Anati, the Executive Director of the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities, the activities carried out in the first reporting period are as follows:

  - **Intermediary Cities for Regional Water Justice Session**

    During the Policy-Mapping Workshop held on January 21, 2021, it was determined that the water issue is the priority climate agenda of the MEWA Region. In order to address this issue from a different perspective, a session titled “Intermediary Cities for Regional Water Justice” was held by UCLG-MEWA within the scope of the Second UCLG World Forum of Intermediary Cities, hosted by Kütahya Municipality on 5-8 October 2021. In the session moderated by Bülent Açığöz, UNDP Turkey Representative, among the speakers were Adel Yasin, Palestinian Water Authority Representative; Hassan Alzaghoul, Mayor of Ajloun (Jordan); Loïc Fau-chon, President of the World Water Council;...
Youth Alliance for a Green Future Project Launch

The opening meeting of the Youth Alliance for a Green Future Project carried out by the World Academy for Local Government and Democracy (WALD), of which UCLG-MEWA is one of the founders, was held in Balikesir on 12 November 2021. UCLG-MEWA played a role as a facilitator in the preparations for the opening meeting of the project, which aims to increase clean energy investments and protect biodiversity by accelerating the circular economy within the framework of the European Green Deal. Mohamed Saadie, UCLG-MEWA President and President of the Union of Dannieh Municipalities; Mousa Hadid, UCLG-MEWA Co-President and Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA) President; Yücel Yılmaz, UCLG-MEWA Co-President and Mayor of Balikesir, took part as speakers in the aforementioned program.

ii. Second Phase Activities

The second phase of the project was carried out between January 1, 2022 - March 31, 2022. During this period, UCLG-MEWA focused its work on training activities. The activities carried out are summarized as below:

- **Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan Training**

  Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SE- CAP) Training was held in Kocaeli, Turkey on February 16, 2022, in cooperation with UCLG-MEWA and EU4 Energy Transition. The event aimed to increase the technical capacities of local governments regarding climate action and to provide information and experience-sharing between municipalities on the process of preparing a basic emission inventory and creating a climate action plan. The training, which was carried out with the participation of 15 municipalities from Turkey at a technical level and was also open to online access, helped develop the capacities of municipalities in terms of preparing sustainable energy and local climate plans.

- **Green Education Workshop**

  The Green Education Workshop, organized within the scope of the Green Refugees Project, aimed to emphasize the local solution of migrations caused by climate change by addressing the relationship between climate and migration. 10 Turkish and 10 Syrian students were included in the training held at a school in Sultanbeyli between 21-24 March 2022. During the 4-day training, activities were carried out to raise awareness among the students on environment and zero waste. The training ended with an exhibition prepared by the students on zero waste and climate change.

- **Training on Integrated Water Resources Management**

  The Training on Integrated Water Resources Management, organized for municipalities in Palestine and Jordan, was held in Amman on March 30-31, 2021. The training included introducing the basic concepts and principles of integrated water resources management, examining the main factors, and evaluating their applicability in Jordan and Palestine, water pricing, and public-private partnership. Eight representatives from Palestine and 10 representatives from Jordan participated in the 2-day training, which was held with the coordination support of the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA) and Greater Amman Municipality. Following the theoretical knowledge sharing on the first day, field visits were organized to institutions operating in Amman with the support of Greater Amman Municipality on the second day.
2.4. **Kentsel Dirençlilik**

Rapid urban growth can bring many fragility factors, such as unplanned settlements, lack of transportation and infrastructure, unemployment, and security problems, especially in developing countries. The ability of cities to be prepared for environmental, economic, and social problems and dangers and to produce solutions, as well as their capacity to adapt to these problems and threats reflect the resilience of cities. Good management of urbanization is among the priority agenda items in order to ensure urban resilience in the Middle East and West Asia Region, which is currently home to fragile countries.

**Activities:**

2.4.1 **Webinar on the Role of Municipalities during COVID-19**

An online program was organized on May 15, 2020 by the Union of Municipalities of Turkey (UMT) and UCLG-MEWA in order to share the kinds of responses the city administrations gave to the pandemic, the difficulties experienced in this process, and examples of success. In the program, which was held with the participation of Fatma Şahin, Mayor of Gaziantep, President of UMT; Assoc. Prof. Birol Ekici Secretary General of UMT; Mohamed Saadie, UCLG-MEWA President; and Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, best practices from Turkey and Lebanon were shared in order to ensure regional dissemination.

2.4.2 **UN Habitat ROAS and UCLG-MEWA Webinar Series**

- **Webinar on the Response of Cities to COVID-19 Pandemic in the MENA Region**

It was decided to organize joint online programs by the UN Habitat Regional Office for Arab States (UN-Habitat ROAS) and UCLG-MEWA in order to enable cities to respond more quickly and effectively to the conditions brought about by the COVID-19 and to facilitate mutual learning in this newly experienced process. In this context, the first program was held on May 21, 2020, under the title “The Response of Cities to COVID-19 Pandemic in the MENA Region”. Within the scope of the webinar, which was held with the participation of Mohamed Saadie, UCLG-MEWA President; Dr. Erfan Ali, Director of UN-Habitat ROAS; Fatma Şahin, President of the Union of Municipalities of Turkey and Mayor of Gaziantep; Abdallah Anati, Executive Director of the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA), sessions on “Cities’ Response to the COVID-19”, “Challenges in Implementing of Social/Physical Distancing Policies” and “Implications of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Future Planning” were organized.
Webinar on Empowering Local Communities for Inclusive COVID-19 Recovery

The second online program, carried out in cooperation with UN-Habitat ROAS and UCLG-MEWA, was held on October 26, 2020, under the title “Empowering Local Communities for Inclusive Covid-19 Recovery.” The webinar focused on the resilience of cities and the role of local communities in response planning in the post-COVID-19 era. Conducted in Arabic, Turkish, and English, the program also discussed how local governments can engage local communities to address urgent needs for public service delivery.

2.4.3. Training Program on Fostering Employment and Entrepreneurship for Locals and Refugees

The program titled “Jobs, Entrepreneurship and Private Sector Engagement in Host Communities: Adapting to the COVID-19 Crisis” was organized by the Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI) and the World Bank Group in collaboration with the French Development Agency (AFD), the Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), International Labour Organization (ILO), UCLG-MEWA, the World Academy for Local Government and Democracy (WALD), UN-Habitat and UNHCR.

This online training series of the Mediterranean Host Municipalities Learning Network (HMLN) explores the key role that host local governments play in the efforts made to address the COVID-19 crisis and post-COVID recovery and provide a better local economic environment. As part of the event, the COVID-19 Rapid Needs Assessment project conducted by the CMI with the participation of municipalities from Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine, and Turkey was presented to the participants.

2.4.4. Sustainable Urban Transport Network (SUTN) Turkey Project

“Sustainable Urban Transport Network - Turkey” Project (SUTN-TR) is carried out within the scope of the Civil Society Facility and Media - Civil Society Networks and Platforms Support Program financed by the European Union, under the coordination of WRI Turkey Sustainable Cities and UCLG-MEWA and in partnership with Active Living Association, the International Association of Public Transport (UITP) and the YADA Foundation. The four-year project, which began in February 2020, aims to create an effective, sustainable urban transport network involving a wide diversity of stakeholders that can result in greater impacts on policy-making, democratic governance, and social change to enable a more democratic civil society in Turkey. Within the scope of the activities carried out since the beginning of the project, stakeholder mapping was carried out, and the project’s website (www.kavsak.net) was created.

Project studies continued with E-Learning Modules created under different titles in 2021.
In addition to the 5th Module titled “Civil Society and Local Governance” prepared by UCLG-MEWA, webinars were also shot for these modules, which cover 10 different topics in total. The topics of the webinars are as follows:

**Module 1**: Sustainable Urban Transport: Main Concepts and Practices

**Module 2**: Communication of Sustainable Projects: Approach, Concepts, Tactics

**Module 3**: Stakeholder Dialogue, Conflict Management and Negotiation

**Module 4**: Impact Oriented Project Cycle Management

**Module 5**: Civil Society and Local Governance

**Module 6**: Fund Raising and Social Entrepreneurship

**Module 7**: Corporate Social Responsibility

**Module 8**: Social Impact Monitoring

**Module 9**: Policy Monitoring, Evaluation and Representation

**Module 10**: Clean Fuel Bus Technologies for Sustainable Urban Transport

Project stakeholders meet periodically with the members of the Kavşak Network and create a mutual learning environment. The project will continue with a technical observation visit to the transport authorities in Barcelona and Brussels in 2022.

2.4.5. **Sustainable Bus System for Smart Cities Conference**

The Sustainable Bus System for Smart Cities Conference was held at Istanbul Expo Center, Turkey on 5-6 March 2020, in partnership with UCLG-MEWA, World Resources Institute Turkey (WRI Turkey), Sustainable Cities, Busworld Academy, HKF Trade Fairs, Association of All Private Buses (TÖHOB), the United Nations Center for Regional Development (UN-CRD), and UN Habitat. On this occasion, representatives of municipalities, bus firms, civil society organizations, academics, and related stakeholders gathered to share their insights on the implementation of future-oriented bus systems, based on Turkish and international experiences.

The Conference consisted of a bus and coach exhibition, academic sessions, and networking sessions on market and mobility analysis of buses and coaches in the MEWA Region, especially in Turkey. Also, during the 2-day sessions, topics such as the development of zero-emission bus services, network systems for electric transport, efficient cooperation between the local government and public transport authorities, and Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP) were discussed.
2.5. Local Development & Governance

The current understanding of local government, which carries the responsibility areas of local governments beyond the provision of basic infrastructure services, has also made local governments one of the most important stakeholders in local development. This transformation is also fed by the understanding of governance in which all the stakeholders in the city take an active role in the city administration. This understanding is one of the effective implementation tools of the UN 2030 Agenda, which is shaped around the vision of leaving no one behind.

Activities:

2.5.1. Monitoring and Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals

During the 3-year period of activity, UCLG-MEWA, together with its members and stakeholders, has carried out many activities supporting the development studies carried out locally, especially increasing awareness of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the local level, aligning the efforts with the SDGs, and supporting the reporting studies carried out at the local, national, and regional levels.

i. Matching Project of HDI-D and SDGs

A project has been initiated by UCLG-MEWA and the Human Development Foundation (İNGEV) to determine in which areas and how the Human Development Index-Districts (HDI-D) and SDGs can be matched, which aims to measure and monitor human development at the local level. The first leg of the project, which started with the Advisory Board Meeting held in Istanbul on 19 November 2019, hosted by the Marmara Municipalities Union, continued with research studies in the following months. While the report titled Assessment of Human Development Index-Districts Model Based on UN Sustainable Development Goals was prepared for Turkey, the Human Development Index Implementation Report for Palestine and the Human Development Index Feasibility Report for Jordan were also prepared.

ii. Awareness and Dissemination Studies

The webinars, training programs, and social media campaigns organized by UCLG-MEWA for SDGs during the 2019-2022 period constitute the awareness activities carried out in this field. UCLG-MEWA, which took a regional lead in this field, especially with the Pilot Project for Mapping the Sustainable Development Goals in Turkey carried out in 2018, took part in many different local, national, and international platforms and encouraged its members to participate in these platforms. In addition to these, the main activities organized by UCLG-MEWA during the period are given below:

- Sustainable Development Goals Alignment Workshop - Izmir

The Sustainable Development Goals Alignment Workshop was held for the district municipalities of Izmir on February 16-18, 2020 under the coordination of the Sustainable Urban Development Network, Izmir Metropolitan Municipality,
In the workshop held with the participation of municipal representatives from Buca, Çiğli, Karabağlar, Karsiyaka, Menderes, Narlıdere, Seferihisar and Selçuk districts, the municipal work of Izmir Metropolitan Municipality was aligned with the SDGs, and participants were informed about the SDG monitoring process.

- **Training of Trainers: Localization of Global Agendas - Iran**

Another awareness-raising activity for the SDG Agenda was carried out by UCLG-MEWA in Iran. Trainers to coordinate awareness activities on global agendas in municipalities in Iran were informed about the concept of sustainability, the Habitat Process, the New Urban Agenda, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within the scope of the workshop held on November 3-4, 2019 at the Tehran Municipality Research and Planning Center. At the meetings held in 2021, it is planned to carry out joint studies on the reporting processes as the next stage of this training.

- **A Series of Guidelines for VLR Dissemination Activities**

A series of guidelines have been launched with the initiative of UCLG and UN Habitat for local and regional governments who want to be involved in local reporting activities for Sustainable Development Goals. The guidelines were translated by UCLG-MEWA in order to disseminate among local governments in the MEWA Region. The Turkish translation of the guidelines, the first volume of which was completed in 2020, was published and shared with local governments in Turkey. The translation of the second volume is planned to be finalized in 2022.

- **Training Program on the Localization and Mainstreaming of Sustainable Development Goals**

A training program on the localization and mainstreaming of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Local Governments was
organized by the task team responsible for the municipal audit of the European Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (EUROSAI) in cooperation with the Court of Accounts of Turkey and the UN in Turkey. Salim Korkmaz, UCLG-MEWA General Coordinator, took part as the keynote speaker in the online training held on September 13, 2021, and after the briefing on the organizational structure and functioning of UCLG-MEWA, Korkmaz shared information about the localization of the SDGs.

### iii. Local Reporting Activities

Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs), the local monitoring tool of SDGs, were included on the agenda for the first time in the MEWA Region in the 2019-2021 period, and technical expertise support was provided to municipalities that wanted to work on this issue. The first reviews of the region were completed in 2021 by Sultanbeyli (Istanbul), Karatay (Konya) and Izmir. These reviews are also important because they present different examples both at the district and metropolitan scale. Again in 2021, with a Cooperation Agreement signed by UCLG-MEWA and UN Habitat, VLR preparations for Amman (Jordan) and Agadir (Morocco) were initiated.

2021 was also a year in which the MEWA Region was represented at the local level in the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) organized by the UN. Participating as speakers in the side events organized by UCLG and UN Habitat within the scope of the Forum, Hüseyin Keskin, Mayor of Sultanbeyli; M. Tunç Soyer, Mayor of Izmir; Hasan Kilca, Mayor of Karatay; and Dr. Yousef Al Shawarbeh, Mayor of Amman, shared their experiences on the prepared reviews with the participants.

#### Voluntary Local Review Preparations in Sultanbeyli

The preparatory work for Sultanbeyli’s VLR, one of the first reviews prepared at the district scale, was carried out under the coordination of Sultanbeyli Municipality Strategy Development Department and UCLG-MEWA. Although the work that started before the pandemic was interrupted for a while, the process gained momentum in 2020. A road map was determined with the coordination meetings held between the municipality and the UCLG-MEWA team, and activities were carried out accordingly. In August, the work plan was shared with the Mayor of Sultanbeyli during a visit made to his office.

In line with the decision taken at the ongoing coordination meetings, an Advisory Board consisting of different sector representatives was formed to contribute to the VLR, and two different meetings were held with the Board Members on October 15 and December 10, 2020. In the meetings, the methodology of the review and the roadmap to be followed were determined. In the training program titled Localization of SDGs, which was organized for the department managers of the municipality on April 6, 2021, the participants were informed about the background, localization, and monitoring of SDGs.

During the writing process of the review, the municipality team and UCLG-MEWA met periodically and evaluated the review. The writing of the review was completed in two languages, English and Turkish.

#### Voluntary Local Review Preparations in Izmir

Based on the data obtained at the SDG Alignment Workshop conducted in February 2020, under the coordination of the Sustainable Urban Development Network, İzmir Metropolitan
Municipality, and UCLG-MEWA, a VLR study was proposed by UCLG-MEWA, which builds on these preparations. This process, which was suspended for a while due to the epidemic, was revived in October 2020. At the meetings held with the Sustainable Urban Development Network and municipality representatives, it was decided to act in cooperation with Izmir’s VLR process. Accordingly, an Advisory Board Meeting was held with the participation of representatives from different institutions on April 29, 2021, and evaluations were made on the content and methodology of the report. After the Advisory Board Meeting, a virtual training program was organized between 8-10 May 2021. In the training program carried out in cooperation with UCLG-MEWA, UN SDSN, and Sustainable Urban Development Network, information was provided on VLRs, in addition, the progress reached regarding Izmir’s VLR was shared, and the VLR experiences of Buenos Aires (Argentina) and Espoo (Finland) were conveyed to the audience with the participation of municipality representatives. The review, prepared in Turkish, was introduced at the UCLG Culture Summit held in Izmir between 9-11 September 2021. The English translation process of the review continues.

- **Voluntary Local Review Preparations in Karatay**
  
  As a result of the negotiations between Karatay Municipality and UCLG-MEWA in March 2021, it was decided to carry out the Karatay VLR work with the cooperation of Karatay Municipality and UCLG-MEWA. As part of the preparations, a two-day training program was held in Karatay on April 8-9, 2021. In the opening session, the participants were informed about the background of SDGs and the gains that the Karatay VLR will bring to the city, within the scope of the training held with the department managers of the municipality, in which Hasan Kilca, Mayor of Karatay, and Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, took part. After the training, the process was followed in coordination with the municipality.

- **Voluntary Local Review Preparations in Fatih**
  
  Within the scope of the Fatih VLR study coordinated by Fatih Municipality, an information meeting was held between the Mayor of Fatih, and the UCLG-MEWA team. At the meeting held on December 1, 2021, the technical support provided by UCLG-MEWA regarding VLR processes and the steps to be followed for VLR writing were discussed. As a result of the preparatory meetings held between the municipality team and UCLG-MEWA, it was decided to organize a training program for the department managers of the municipality. At the Training on Local Monitoring of SDGs held on 28-29 December 2021, participants were informed about the SDG Agenda and VLR processes.

  After the training, an Advisory Board was planned to be formed, and the Board Members met on February 1, 2022. At the meeting, opinions and suggestions about the content and methodology of the review were shared. The writing of the review, which started after the meeting, is still ongoing.

- **Local and Regional Governments’ Report**
  
  A reporting initiative has been initiated by UCLG and the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments to be presented at the annual High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). This study, prepared under the title of the Local and Regional Governments’ Report, aims to present the stage of SDG progress in local and regional govern-
ments and has been prepared every year since 2017. Regional support was provided to the Local and Regional Government’ Report prepared in 2019, 2020, and 2021, which is within the scope of this reporting period of UCLG-MEWA. Communicating with its members through survey studies, UCLG-MEWA also contributed to these studies with the activities it carried out as a secretariat.

2.5.2. Alternative Tourism: Trends and Visions

Tourism, one of the important elements of local development, was among the agenda topics of the 2019-2022 period of activity. The Alternative Tourism: Trends and Visions Panel, organized by the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Culture and Tourism, was held within the scope of the Travel Turkey Izmir Fair, hosted by Izmir Metropolitan Municipality. In the panel held on December 6, 2019, topics such as health tourism, congress tourism, gastronomic tourism, eco-tourism, and urban tourism, which are among the important branches of alternative tourism, were discussed.

Municipality-Private Sector Cooperation is Strengthening!

2.5.3. Training Program on Municipal Enterprises for Local Authorities

A training series was initiated with the cooperation between UCLG-MEWA and UNDP Istanbul International Center for Private Sector in Development (IICPSD) in order to disseminate the municipal enterprise model and raise awareness of municipal enterprises on the sustainable development agenda. At the meeting held on January 24, 2020, the scope and content of the trainings and the target audience were evaluated. The Training Program on Municipal Enterprises for Local Authorities (MELA), which was first initiated in the MEWA Region, has also been planned for different regions in light of the experiences gained. The trainings were organized by UNDP IICPSD, UCLG-MEWA, and
Kibar Holding, and the national local government associations in the countries where the training was given, and the relevant sections of UCLG were also included in the planning phase of the training.

**MELA Turkey**

The first phase of the training was held on the online platform on September 29-30, 2022, for municipalities in Turkey. The program, which was carried out with the support of the Union of Municipalities of Turkey, was followed by more than 200 participants. In addition to Dr. Hayri Baraçlı, Member of the Presidential Board of Local Government Policies of the Republic of Turkey; Assoc. Prof. Birol Ekici, Secretary General of the Union of Municipalities of Turkey; Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General; Haluk Kayabaşı, CEO of Kibar Holding; and Gülçin Salıngan, Deputy Director of UNDP IICPSD, delivered their keynote speeches of the training. Within the scope of the training, a module on Urbanization Dilemmas and Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was presented by UCLG-MEWA.

**MELA Palestine**

The second leg of the training was organized online for Palestinian municipalities on 4-5 November 2020. Sahba Sobhani, Director of UNDP IICPSD; Dr. Hayri Baraçlı, Member of the Presidential Board of Local Government Policies of the Republic of Turkey; Mohamed Saadie, UCLG-MEWA President; Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General; Haluk Kayabaşı, CEO of Kibar Holding; and Abdallah Anati, Executive Director of the APLA, attended the opening session of the program, which was held with the support of the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA). In the module given by UCLG-MEWA, the urbanization process in Palestine and the UN 2030 Agenda were shared with the participants.

**MELA Azerbaijan**

Following the trainings held in the MEWA Region, it was decided to expand the trainings outside the MEWA Region as a result of the negotiations between UNDP IICPSD and UCLG-MEWA. In this direction, the first training outside the MEWA Region was planned for local governments in Azerbaijan. The program was organized with the support of UCLG-Eurasia, the Union of Azerbaijan Municipalities and the Union of Turkish World Municipalities (TDBB), and was held online on February 15-16, 2021. Sahba Sobhani, Director of UNDP IICPSD; Temraz Tağıev, UNDP Resident Representative for Azerbaijan; Dr. Fahri Solak, Secretary General of the Union of Turkish World Municipalities; Rassikh Sagitov, UCLG-EURASIA Secretary General; Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General; Haluk Kayabaşı, CEO at Kibar Holding; and Dr. Hayri Baraçlı, Member of the Presidential Board of Local Government Policies of the Republic of Turkey, took part in the program with their keynote speeches. As in all other trainings, the information given by UCLG-MEWA on the background and dynamics of SDGs, as well as the urbanization process in Azerbaijan, was shared with the participants. At the meeting held with the Azerbaijan delegation at the UCLG-MEWA General Secretariat after the training, the work that can be done after this training was also evaluated.

**MELA Albania**

The last stage of MELA trainings, which is the subject of this reporting period, was organized for Albanian municipalities. The program was organized with the support of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), the Albanian Association of Municipalities and TDBB, and was held online on November 23-24, 2021. Gülçin Salıngan, Deputy Director of UNDP IICPSD; Agron Haxhimili, Executive Director of
the Albanian Association of Municipalities; Dr. Fahri Solak, Secretary General of the Union of Turkish World Municipalities; Frederic Vallier, the then Secretary General of CEMR; Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General; GökÇal Güngör, General Manager of Assan Allüminyum; Prof. Dr. Tarkan Oktay, Member of the Presidential Board of Local Government Policies of the Republic of Turkey, took part in the opening session of the program. Within the scope of the 2-day training, UCLG-MEWA presented the module, which includes the urbanization process in Albania and the details of the 2030 Agenda.

2.5.4. Panel Session on City Diplomacy in the Implementation of Global Agendas & Round Table Meetings

A panel on City Diplomacy in the Implementation of Global Agendas was held on 11 March 2020 by the UCLG-MEWA Committee on City Diplomacy and Local Governance to evaluate the potential of cities in implementing global agendas such as the SDGs, New Urban Agenda, and Agenda 21 for Culture. In the continuation of the event held in Nevşehir as part of the UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau, round table meetings were held under the titles of “Development and Aid Cooperation”, “International City Networks”, “Global Urbanization Policies”, and “Sister Cities”, and the participants shared their experiences under the relevant topic.

2.5.5. Webinar on the Right to the City Under Occupation: The Case of Palestine

A webinar titled “Right to the City under Occupation: The Case of Palestine” was held on July 7, 2021 with the cooperation of UCLG-MEWA and the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA) and the support of the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States. In the online program, the humanitarian crisis in Palestine was discussed from the perspective of the locals on the basis of the right to the city. In the program, which was held in English, Arabic, Turkish, Spanish, and French, Mohamed Saadie, UCLG-MEWA President; Mousa Hadid, UCLG-MEWA Co-President and APLA President; Erfan Ali, Regional Officer of UN-Habitat ROAS, and Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, delivered the opening remarks. The webinar organized under the sessions titled “Right to Reside and Free Movement” and “Right to Development” presented a different perspective in terms of addressing the local effects of the occupation in Palestine.

Towards Effective Civic Engagement in the MEWA Region...

2.5.6. “KATILIYORUZ” Program

The “KATILIYORUZ” (We Engage) Program was launched in 2020 in order to strengthen cooperation and dialogue between non-governmental organizations, social enterprises, and local governments in cooperation with the Turkey office of the US-based National Democratic Institute and UCLG-MEWA. Within the scope of the program, which was carried out with 6 municipalities, civic engagement analyses were carried out and capacity building projects were planned in line with the outcomes.
Periodic meetings were held with the Advisory Board established within the scope of the program, and opinions and suggestions were received regarding the activity planning.

Within the scope of the program, the “Joint Webinar of Civic Engagement” was held on May 5, 2021. Cooperation was established with the International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (IODP) during the program which was organized as a thematic event within the framework of the UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau Meeting. Pedro Palacios, Mayor of Cuenca from Ecuador; Pilar Diaz, Mayor of Esplugues de Llobregat from Spain; and Mohamed Sefiani, Mayor of Chefchaouen from Morocco, took part as speakers and shared their city’s civic engagement experiences with the participants.

In the later stages of the program, the Civic Engagement Training for Global Goals was held on May 25, 2021 with the expertise support of UCLG-MEWA. The municipality and civil society representatives who attended the training had the opportunity to obtain information on the projection of civic engagement on global agendas, and at the same time, to develop practical skills in designing different themes in a holistic manner during the development of project ideas. The program was completed by June 2021.
3. ADMINISTRATIVE MEETINGS

3.1. UCLG-MEWA Administrative Meetings
3.2. Administrative Meetings of UCLG-MEWA Committees
3.3. UCLG Meetings
3. ADMINISTRATIVE MEETINGS

In this part of the report, administrative meetings organized by UCLG-MEWA, UCLG-MEWA Committees, and UCLG World Organization are included.

3.1. UCLG-MEWA Administrative Meetings

3.1.1. The 6th UCLG-MEWA Congress (July 9-10, 2019, Amman/Jordan)

The UCLG-MEWA General Assembly, which convenes every three years according to the Constitution of the Organization, convened on 9-10 July 2019 under the auspices of the Greater Amman Municipality for the election of the governing bodies for the 2019-2022 period. Within the scope of the two-day Congress program, the UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau and Council Joint Meeting, and the UCLG-MEWA General Assembly, as well as administrative meetings of the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Smart Cities and Urban Mobility and the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Social Inclusion were organized. In addition to the administrative meetings of the committees, thematic sessions on “The Challenges and Opportunities for Big Data and Open Data for Local Governments” and “The Role of Local Governments in Managing Migration” were held.

Yousef Al Shawarbeh, Mayor of Amman, Vahap Seçer, Mayor of Mersin & UCLG-MEWA Co-President for the 2016-2019 period, Ilsur Metshin, Mayor of Kazan & UCLG Eurasia President, and Uğur İbrahim Altay, Mayor of Konya & UCLG Co-President, took part in the opening session of the Congress. During the event, the 2019-2022 Presidency of the organization was also determined. While the Union of Dannieh Municipalities was elected as UCLG-MEWA President, Greater Amman Municipality, Adana Metropolitan Municipality, Balikesir Metropolitan Municipality, Association of Palestinian Local Authorities, and Tehran Municipality were elected as Co-Presidents. While Ankara Metropolitan Municipality was elected as the UCLG-MEWA Ombudsman, Nevşehir Municipality was elected as the Treasurer of the organization.

3.1.2. UCLG-MEWA Presidency Working Session (September 12, 2019, Istanbul/Turkey)

The Working Session was held at the UCLG-MEWA General Secretariat to discuss the roadmap of the new period with the Presidency elected at the UCLG-MEWA Congress held on 9-10 July 2019. In addition to Rasim Arı, the then Mayor of Nevşehir, representatives from Balıkesir Metropolitan Municipality, Gölcük Municipality, Nilüfer Municipality, and the World Academy for Local Governments and Democracy (WALD) participated in the session chaired by Mohamed Saadie, UCLG-MEWA President for the 2019-2022 period. Within the scope of the session, information was given by the UCLG-MEWA Secretariat about the changes in membership, preparations for the UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau Meeting held in Izmir, the activities of the UCLG-MEWA Committees, the Organization’s Strategic Plan for 2019-
2022 and the nomination process for the UCLG Governing Bodies.

3.1.3. UCLG-MEWA Presidency Meeting (November 3, 2019, Tehran/Iran)

The UCLG-MEWA Presidency Meeting was held on November 3, 2019, in Tehran, the capital of Iran, under the presidency of Mohamed Saadie, President of UCLG-MEWA and the Union of Dannehieh Municipalities. At the meeting hosted by Tehran Municipality, Co-President of the organization, the draft UCLG-MEWA Strategic Plan for 2019-2022 prepared by the secretariat was presented to the Presidency for their opinion and suggestions. Also, the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis prepared for UCLG-MEWA and updated strategic priorities were presented for consideration. In line with the suggestions received, it was decided to present the topics of Disadvantaged Groups and Equality, Migration and Social Cohesion, Fighting Against and Adapting to Climate Change, Urban Resilience, and Local Development and Governance to the Executive Bureau as priorities to be included in the strategic plan.

3.1.4. UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau Meeting (December 6, 2019, Izmir/Turkey)

The UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau Meeting was held on December 6, 2019, hosted by Izmir Metropolitan Municipality. At the said meeting, the UCLG-MEWA report of activities covering the period of 9 July 2019 – 6 December 2019 was presented. Additionally, the 2020 draft budget of UCLG-MEWA was put to vote, and a briefing was held on the planned activities for the year 2020. The UCLG-MEWA Strategic Plan for the period 2020-2022, which was discussed at the UCLG-MEWA Presidency Meeting held on November 1-3, 2019, was submitted to the Executive Bureau members for approval. The membership applications of local governments from Jordan, Palestine, and Turkey were approved. In the meeting, the host city meetings of the Executive Bureau and Council Meeting, which should be held in October-November 2020 in accordance with the UCLG-MEWA Constitution, were also held.

3.1.5. UCLG-MEWA Supervisory Board/Financial Management Committee Meeting (March 10, 2020, Nevşehir/Turkey)

On March 10, 2020, members of the Supervisory Board/Financial Management Committee of the Organization convened under the presidency of the Mayor of Nevşehir, the then UCLG-MEWA Treasurer. At the meeting, the Financial Report covering the period of January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019, was presented by the UCLG-MEWA Secretariat to the members of the Supervisory Board/Financial Management Committee. Changes in membership and financial status of the organization were also discussed to be presented to the UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau.
3.1.6. UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau Meeting
(March 11, 2020, Nevşehir/Turkey)

The UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau Meeting took place on March 11, 2020 hosted by Nevşehir Municipality. At the meeting, the Organization’s report of activities covering the period of December 7, 2019-February 29, 2020, was presented, and the 2019 Financial Report of the UCLG-MEWA Supervisory Board/Financial Management Committee was shared with the members of the Executive Bureau. After the organization’s Program of Activities covering the period of March 11, 2020-December 31, 2020 was presented, a briefing was given on the changes in membership. During the meeting, the proposal of Gebze Municipality to be the host of the first UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau Meeting to be held in 2021 was also submitted.

3.1.7. UCLG-MEWA Supervisory Board/
Financial Management Committee
Meeting (October 16, 2020, Online)

Under the presidency of the Mayor of Nevşehir, the then UCLG-MEWA Treasurer, the members of the Financial Management Committee/Supervisory Board convened on October 22, 2020. The Financial Report for the period of January 1, 2020 - September 30, 2020, and the Draft Budget for 2021 were presented to the members of the Supervisory Board/Financial Management Committee by the UCLG-MEWA Secretariat during the meeting. Changes in membership and membership fees of the organization were also discussed to be presented to the UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau.

3.1.8. UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau and
Council Meeting (October 22, 2020, online)

The UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau and Council Meeting was held online on October 22, 2020, due to the pandemic conditions. During the online meeting organized by the UCLG-MEWA Secretariat, the Report of Activities for the period of March 12 - October 21, 2020, and the Program of Activities for 2021 were presented. The Supervisory Board/Financial Management Committee Report was presented by the Mayor of Nevşehir, the then UCLG-MEWA Treasurer. Information was given about the changes in membership during the said period. In addition, the Organization’s Ombudsman Report for 2020 was also presented. Adana Metropolitan Municipality and Gebze Municipality requested hosting in the meetings held to determine the city that will host the administrative meetings to be held in 2021 by the Organization.

3.1.9. UCLG-MEWA Supervisory Board/
Financial Management Committee
(April 27, 2021, online)

Prior to the UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau Meeting held in May, the UCLG-MEWA Supervisory Board/Financial Management Committee met virtually on April 27, 2021. During the meeting, the Financial Report for January 1 - December 31, 2020, the Independent Audit Report for 2020, and changes in membership were discussed.
3.1.10. UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau Meeting 
(May 5, 2021, online) (with the support of Gebze Municipality)

The UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau Meeting was held virtually under the auspices of Gebze Municipality on May 5, 2021, which marked the 17th anniversary of the Organization. Within the scope of the meeting, the UCLG-MEWA Report of Activities for the period of 22 October 2020 - 05 May 2021, the UCLG-MEWA Supervisory Board/Financial Management Committee Report, the reports of activities of the Committees, and the Financial Report for the period of 1 January 2020 - 31 December 2020 were presented. Within the scope of the meeting, where changes in membership were also discussed, the 2021 Report of Activities was also presented, and applications were received for the city that would host the next administrative meeting. Fatma Şahin, President of the Union of Municipalities of Turkey and Mayor of Gaziantep; Ramazan Kabasakal, Head of Foreign Relations Department on behalf of Mansur Yavaş, UCLG-MEWA Ombudsman and Mayor of Ankara; Mohamed Saadie, UCLG-MEWA President; Emilia Saiz, UCLG Secretary General; Uğur İbrahim Altay and UCLG Co-President and Mayor of Konya; and Mohamed Boudra, UCLG President, were among the names who attended the meeting.

3.1.11. UCLG-MEWA Supervisory Board/Financial Management Committee 
(October 28, 2021, Gölcük/Turkey)

Prior to the UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau and Council Joint Meeting, the UCLG-MEWA Supervisory Board/Financial Management Committee convened on October 28, 2021 under the auspices of Gölcük Municipality. In the meeting, Budget Realization Report for January 1 - September 30, 2021 period, the UCLG-MEWA Draft Budget for 2022, the Independent Audit Report for 2022, and the changes in membership were discussed.

3.1.12. UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau and Council Joint Meeting 
(November 11, 2021, Balıkesir/Turkey)

The UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau and Council Joint Meeting was held on November 11, 2021 under the auspices of Balikesir Metropolitan Municipality, which is one of the Co-Presidents of the Section. Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, Emilia Saiz, UCLG Secretary General, Yücel Yılmaz, UCLG-MEWA Co-President and Mayor of Balıkesir, Ahmad Al Subaih, Secretary General of Arab Towns Organization, Mohamed Saadie, UCLG-MEWA President and President of the Union of Dannieh Municipalities, Uğur İbrahim Altay, UCLG Co-President and Mayor of Konya, and Şükrü Karatepe, President of the Presidential Board of Local Government Policies of Turkey were the speakers of the opening session of the meeting held in a hybrid format.

Within the framework of the meeting, the Organization’s Report of Activities for the period of May-November 2021 and the Draft Program of Activities for 2022, as well as the changes in membership and the Supervisory Board/Financial Management Committee Report, were discussed. As a result of the evaluation of the received applications, it was decided that Konya Metropolitan Municipality would host the UCLG-MEWA General Assembly to be held in 2022. Within the scope of the meeting where the UCLG-MEWA Committees shared their reports of activities, administrative meetings of the Committee on Environment and the Committee on Social Inclusion were also held.
3.2. Administrative Meetings of UCLG-MEWA Committees

At the 6th UCLG-MEWA Congress held in 2019, the renewed committee presidencies assembled the Presidency Meetings for the first time after this year and evaluated the 3-year roadmaps to be followed. These meetings, which were facilitated by the UCLG-MEWA Secretariat, are given below:

3.2.1. UCLG-MEWA Committee on Social Inclusion Presidency Meeting

The UCLG-MEWA Committee on Social Inclusion Presidency Meeting was held on 10-11 October 2019, hosted by Mersin Metropolitan Municipality, the President of the Committee. The meeting, chaired by Vahap Seçer, Mayor of Mersin, was attended by the Committee Co-Presidents, namely Beylikdüzü Municipality, Şanlıurfa Metropolitan Municipality, and Saida Municipality, as well as representatives of the Union of Municipalities of Turkey. At the meeting, the 3-Year Program of Activities for the new presidential term of the committee and Policy Document were evaluated.

3.2.2. UCLG-MEWA Committee on Environment Presidency Meeting

The UCLG-MEWA Committee on Environment Presidency Meeting was held on 10-11 October 2019, hosted by Balıkesir Metropolitan Municipality, which was elected as the Committee President on 23 October 2019. The meeting started with the evaluation of environmental problems in the MEWA region and continued with the discussion of local government and city policies on global climate change. At the meeting where the committee’s 3-year strategic roadmap was determined, the task forces for the 2019-2022 period were decided to be the “Task Force on Climate Change”, “Task Force on Waste Management and Pollution”, and “Task Force on Water and Wastewater”.

3.2.3. UCLG-MEWA Committee on Smart Cities and Urban Mobility Presidency Meeting

With the decision taken at the UCLG-MEWA Congress, the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Smart Cities and the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Urban Mobility were merged. The Committee Presidency met in Tehran on November 3, 2019, to determine the strategic roadmap of the Committee, which was decided to operate under the name of UCLG-MEWA Committee on Smart Cities and Urban Mobility. The policy document of the Committee and the 3-Year Program of Activities were discussed at the meeting chaired by Muhammed Ezzati Gharibdousti, Deputy Mayor of Tabriz and Co-President of the Committee.
3.2.4. UCLG-MEWA Committee on Culture and Tourism Presidency Meeting

At the UCLG-MEWA Congress held in Amman, it was decided to merge the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Culture and the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Tourism. The Committee Presidency, which was determined after the committee merger, met in Kyrenia, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC), on November 21-23, 2019 to discuss the three-year program of activities. Within the scope of the official contacts held before the meeting, the TRNC Prime Ministry and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Union of Turkish Municipalities of Cyprus (KTBB), which also serves as the country representative of UCLG-MEWA, Nicosia Municipality, Kyrenia Municipality and the Turkish Embassy in Nicosia were visited to inform about the activities.

3.2.5. UCLG-MEWA Committee on Gender Equality Presidency Meeting

The UCLG-MEWA Committee on Gender Equality Presidency Meeting was held on February 4, 2020 in Beylikdüzü, Istanbul. Balıkesir Metropolitan Municipality, Beit Jala Municipality, and Beyarmudu Municipality participated in the meeting hosted by Beylikdüzü Municipality, which was elected as the President of the Committee at the UCLG-MEWA Congress on 9-10 July 2019.

Within the scope of the meeting, the program of activities of the committee for the period of 2019-2022 was discussed and the policy document prepared by the secretariat was accepted. The Committee Presidency also discussed the current situation of local women’s representation in the MEWA Region and the policies developed by cities and local governments on gender equality.

3.2.6. UCLG-MEWA Committee on City Diplomacy and Local Governance Presidency Meeting

The presidency of the Committee on City Diplomacy and Local Governance, which was formed with the decision taken on the merger of the two committees at the 6th UCLG-MEWA Congress, convened in Nevşehir on March 10, 2020. The Union of Municipalities of Turkey as President of the Committee and Ankara Metropolitan Municipality, Izmir Metropolitan Municipality and Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality as Co- Presidents of the Committee participated in the meeting held within the scope of the Executive Bureau and Council Meeting hosted by Nevşehir Municipality. The committee’s policy document and 3-year program of activities were discussed and approved by the presidency.

3.2.7. Committee on City Diplomacy and Local Governance Meeting

The meeting, where administrative issues of the UCLG-MEWA Committee on City Diplomacy and Local Governance were discussed, was held on December 15, 2020. The committee’s report of activities and the 3-year program of activities
were discussed and approved by the committee members during the meeting held under the presidency of the Union of Municipalities of Turkey. The committee membership request of Sultanbeyli Municipality was discussed and accepted.

3.2.8. UCLG-MEWA Committee on Culture and Tourism Meeting

The UCLG-MEWA Culture and Tourism Committee virtually convened on January 13, 2021 to review the year 2020 and plan for the year 2021. The meeting was held with the participation of the Presidency, members, and stakeholders of the Committee. Within the scope of the meeting, the 2020 activities of the Committee were reviewed, and the Committee’s website on “Best Practices of Sustainable Tourism,” which compiles the best practices of local governments, was launched. It was decided that the Intangible Cultural Heritage Task Force, run by Balıkesir Metropolitan Municipality and Şanlıurfa Metropolitan Municipality under the Committee, would hold a meeting in Balıkesir, Turkey.

3.2.9. UCLG-MEWA Committee on Environment Administrative Meeting

Following the adoption of the three-year roadmap at the Committee Presidency Meeting held in 2019, hosted by Balıkesir Metropolitan Municipality, the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Environment convened virtually on January 21, 2021, to discuss the developments and future plans of the committee. At the meeting, presentations were made by the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality representative and the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Environment Secretariat. After the determination of the new members of the Committee, the city to host the next Committee meeting was decided.

3.2.10. UCLG-MEWA Committee on Social Inclusion Meeting

Within the scope of the UCLG-MEWA Executive Bureau and Council Joint Meeting hosted by Balıkesir Metropolitan Municipality on November 11, 2021, the meeting of the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Social Inclusion, where administrative issues were discussed, was also held. At the said meeting, the Committee’s Report of Activities covering the period of October 2019-November 2021 and the Draft Program of Activities for 2022 were presented.

3.2.11. Committee on Environment Meeting


3.3. UCLG Meetings

3.3.1. UCLG Working Session

A Working Session was organized by the UCLG World Organization on September 9-10, 2019
with the participation of sections. Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, and Salim Korkmaz, UCLG-MEWA General Coordinator, attended the program held in Barcelona. In the program in question, the preparations for the UCLG Congress were discussed, and at the same time, the 5th Report prepared by the Global Observatory for Local Democracy and Decentralization (GOLD) with the theme of “Localization of the SDGs” was evaluated. In the evaluations made, regional outputs that contributed to the report were shared.

3.3.2. The 6th UCLG Congress

The 6th UCLG Congress and the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders, where the Presidency for the new period of UCLG is determined, were held in Durban, South Africa between 11-15 November 2019. Within the scope of the UCLG Section Caucuses held within the scope of the Summit, the UCLG-MEWA Secretary General was informed about the activities carried out by the Organization in the region. Within the scope of UCLG Learning Sessions, the outputs obtained from the Pilot Project on Mapping the Sustainable Development Goals in Turkey, conducted in Turkey by UCLG-MEWA representatives were shared with the participants. In addition, Mohamad Saadie, UCLG-MEWA President, and Onur Eryüce, Advisor to the Mayor, on behalf of Izmir Metropolitan Municipality, attended the session titled “The Mediterranean Accent of Cities in the Global Governance Agenda”. On the last day of the congress, a session on Water Resilience in the Context of Growing Water Scarcity was held by UCLG-MEWA on the issue of water, which is one of the prominent problem areas in the region.

3.3.3. 3rd UCLG Culture Summit

The 3rd Culture Summit, organized by the UCLG Committee on Culture, was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina on 4-5 April 2019. The Summit took place in Bilbao, Spain and in Jeju, South Korea respectively in the years 2015 and 2017. This time, the Culture Summit came to the front with its slogan, “Cities lead cultural actions in sustainable development.” Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, and Salim Korkmaz, UCLG-MEWA General Coordinator, participated in the program.

3.3.4. UCLG Presidency Meeting

The first Presidency Meeting of 2020 was held at the headquarters of UCLG in Barcelona on 30-31 January. Members of the Presidency shared their visions for 2020 at the Presidency Meeting, in which Uğur İbrahim Altay, Mayor of Konya and UCLG Co-President from the MEWA Region, and Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, also participated. The meeting, in which the action plan for 2020 was adopted, brought along communication and experience sharing among the new members of the Presidency. The new mechanisms needed to strengthen the organization’s governance and membership network were discussed during the meeting.
3.3.5. UCLG Retreat

The UCLG Retreat, organized by UCLG with the participation of its Sections and relevant stakeholders, took place in Tangier, Morocco on February 24-28, 2020. During the Retreat, UCLG’s strategies for various areas such as local finance, migration, equality and rights, local democracy, culture, the localization of global agendas, and local public services have been opened for discussion.

During the sessions held on the second day of the program, the UCLG-MEWA General Coordinator conveyed the work carried out to localize the global agendas in the MEWA Region, and on the third day, the UCLG-MEWA Secretary General spoke at the panel session on “Accelerating Localization,” sharing with the participants the organization’s strategic priorities that are disadvantaged groups and equality, fighting against and adapting to climate change, local economic development, migration and social cohesion, and urban resilience.

3.3.6. The 2nd UCLG Presidency Meeting

The meeting, where the UCLG Presidency came together for the second time, was held online on April 20, 2020. Solutions that can be developed by local and regional governments to address the needs that emerged with COVID-19 were evaluated during the meeting. The “UCLG Decalogue for the COVID-19 Aftermath” was also reviewed during the meeting. Uğur İbrahim Altay, Mayor of Konya and Co-President of UCLG, and Mohamed Saadie, President of the Union of Dannieh Municipalities and Vice-President of UCLG, were among the participants.

3.3.7. UCLG Committee on Culture Working Session: Rome Charter - Agenda on Cultural Rights

The online meeting of the UCLG Committee on Culture, attended and contributed by the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Culture and Tourism, gathered the Committee’s Presidency, its members, experts, and partners around the Rome Charter - Agenda on Cultural Rights. The online meeting, which took place on May 4, 2020, provided an opportunity to discuss the Rome Charter with key cities, organizations, experts, and networks.

3.3.8. UCLG Executive Bureau Meeting

UCLG’s first Executive Bureau Meeting of 2020 was held online between May 27-29, 2020. The
Financial Management Committee and the Committee on Statutory Affairs meetings were held on May 27, 2020, and the Ministerial Dialogue with Local and Regional Governments was held on May 28, 2020. During the Financial Management Committee Meeting, the financial structure, budget, and financial situation of the organization were evaluated by the members. The roadmap to be followed by UCLG in the post-pandemic period was discussed at the Committee on Statutory Affairs Meeting. In the Ministerial Dialogue with Local and Regional Governments, issues related to the effective implementation of climate agreements were discussed. Among the participants of the 3-day meeting were Izmir Metropolitan Municipality, Tehran Municipality, Union of Municipalities of Turkey, and Konya Metropolitan Municipality, which is UCLG Co-President.

3.3.9. UCLG World Council Meeting

The UCLG World Council was held online on November 9-13, 2020, hosted by the city of Guangzhou. Within the scope of the 5-day Council, the Committee on Urban Strategic Planning, the Committee on Social Inclusion, the Committee on Culture, the Committee on Participatory Democracy and Human Rights, and the Committee on Local Economic and Social Development presented their reports. The results of UCLG’s independent external audit were presented during the Committee on Statutory Affairs Meeting. The Financial Management Committee, chaired by Berry Vrbanovic, Mayor of Kitchener (Canada) and UCLG Treasurer, reviewed UCLG’s financial situation. Future steps for the development of the International Municipal Investment Fund (IMIF) were discussed. In this session, the agenda items titled the report of the UCLG World Council held in Durban, the 2020 Presidency Report, the 2021 Work Plan, the Structuring and Agenda of the 2021 Policy Councils, Updates on the Consultation Mechanisms of UCLG, and the Financial Management Committee Report were presented to the World Council.

The President of the 75th General Assembly of the United Nations, Volkan Bozkır, was the guest of honor at the Opening Session, in which Uğur Ibrahim Altay, Mayor of Konya and UCLG Co-President, also gave a speech.

3.3.10. UCLG Annual Retreat

UCLG held its Annual Retreat online between 15-22 February 2021 under the theme of “A Global Community that Cares”. Within the scope of the program, a special session was held by the UCLG-MEWA Presidency and the Secretariat, in which regional priorities were presented. The session, moderated by Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, was attended by Mohamed Saadie, UCLG-MEWA President and UCLG Vice President; Mousa Hadid, UCLG-MEWA Co-President and Association of Palestinian Local Authorities President; Mansur Yavaş, Mayor of Ankara and UCLG-MEWA Ombudsman; Zeydan Karalar, Mayor of Adana and UCLG-MEWA Co-President; Nicola Khamis, Mayor of Beit Jala.

3.3.11. UCLG Executive Bureau Meeting

The 2021 UCLG Executive Bureau Meeting was held between 18-20 May under the theme of “Care at the heart of local service delivery for inclusive recovery.” The meeting included thematic programs as well as administrative sessions.

On the first day of the program, a thematic session was held on the changing role of local gov-
ernments in development and cooperation, and a Financial Management Committee Meeting was held under the presidency of Berry Vrbanovic, Mayor of Kitchener and Treasurer of UCLG, and Madelaine Y. Alfelor-Gazman, Mayor of Iriga.

On the second day of the program, a session on inclusive digitalization was held, and then the Statutory Committee convened. Within the scope of the session, the UCLG Presidency reviewed the operations of the organization. From our MEWA Region, Uğur İbrahim Altay, Mayor of Konya, took an active role in this department as UCLG Co-President. After the session in question, a meeting on the functioning of UNACLA was held with the participation of the UCLG-MEWA President.

On the last day of the Executive Bureau, a High-Level Policy Dialogue was held, and Uğur İbrahim Altay, Mayor of Konya, delivered a speech on equal access to global vaccination during the Covid-19 pandemic.

3.3.12. UCLG Live Learning Experiences

UCLG, Metropolis, and UN-Habitat organized a series of online sessions titled “Live Learning Experiences” in order to enable virtual interaction and mutual learning between local governments during the COVID-19 process within the framework of the “new normal”. As the UCLG-MEWA Secretariat, active participation was ensured and the participation of the members was encouraged in these programs, which were carried out around many different topics such as local economic development, women’s leadership, accessibility, peace, safe cities, and food systems.

3.3.13. Annual Meeting of the UCLG Committee on Culture

The annual meeting of the UCLG Committee on Culture was held on 16 December 2021 with the participation of strategic partners working in the field of culture. One of the agenda items of the meeting was the UCLG Culture Summit held in Izmir, 9-11 September 2021. Accordingly, the importance and outputs of the UCLG Culture Summit held in Izmir were evaluated by Salim Korkmaz, UCLG-MEWA General Coordinator, and Onur Eryüce, Advisor to the Mayor of Izmir.

3.3.14. UCLG World Council Meeting

The UCLG World Council was held in Barcelona, Spain, on 16-18 December 2021. The work plan and strategic priorities of the organization were discussed at the meeting held under the theme Smart Cities and Territories, Pillars of the Common Agenda within the scope of the World
Smart Cities Fair and Congress. The Financial Management Committee Meeting and Presidency Meeting were held in the part of the program held in a hybrid environment on November 15, 2021. On 16 November, the Committee on Statutory Affairs, World Forum of Regions: Opening Session and Innovation Panel, and UCLG Executive Bureau meetings were held. In the Statutory Affairs sessions, the developments regarding the World Congress to be held in Daejeon in 2022, as well as the status of the UCLG presidency following the term of UCLG President Mohamed Boudra were evaluated. Within the scope of the UCLG World Council Policy Discussion and Business Session held in the part of the program on November 17, 2021, it was decided that the UCLG Presidency would be carried out alternately by Il-sur Metshin, Mayor of Kazan; Li Mingyuan, Mayor of Xi’an; Madelaine Alfelor, Mayor of Iriga; Carlos Martínez, Mayor of Soria; Johnny Araya, Mayor of San José; Uğur İbrahim Altay, Mayor of Konya; Berry Vrbanovic, Mayor of Kitchener; Ada Colau, Mayor of Barcelona; Anne Hidalgo, Mayor of Paris; and Jan Van Zanen, Mayor of The Hague. Mohamed Saadie, UCLG-MEWA President; Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General; Uğur İbrahim Altay, Mayor of Konya and UCLG Co-President; and Salim Korkmaz, UCLG-MEWA General Coordinator attended the said meetings.

3.3.15. UCLG Retreat 2022

The Retreat 2022, where the UCLG World Organization came together with its sections and strategic partners, was held in Barcelona between 21-25 February in a hybrid format. As every year, the steps to be taken in line with the work plan of UCLG in 2022 were discussed by the participants under different themes. Mohamed Saadie, UCLG-MEWA President; Mehmet Duman, Secretary General; Salim Korkmaz, General Coordinator; Melis Şahin, Committees and Projects Coordinator; Bükre Türksoy, Coordinator of Relations with International Organizations; and Uğur İbrahim Altay, Mayor of Konya and UCLG Co-President, attended the meeting. Migration management, which is among the priority agenda items of the MEWA Region, and the work of the Global Task Force on Migration, whose secretariat is conducted by UCLG-MEWA, were shared with the participants. Activities carried out on Voluntary Local Reviews, which had gained intensity in the MEWA Region since 2020, were shared within the scope of the UCLG Retreat.
4. PLATFORMS WHERE UCLG-MEWA IS INCLUDED
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4.1. Policy Forum on Development Task Team Meetings

Acknowledging that civil society organizations and local governments are crucial stakeholders in development, the European Union (EU) aims to ensure the participation of these actors in policy-making processes and relevant decision-making mechanisms. To that end, the European Commission has started to organize a series of negotiation and consultation meetings called the Structured Dialogues, which offer a platform bringing together representatives of civil society organizations and local governments with EU officials. As a result of this initiative, the Policy Forum on Development was established in 2013 in order to provide an environment for continuous dialogue with the stakeholders of development, primarily local governments and non-governmental organizations.

The Commission’s Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) is in charge of the overall organization of the Forum. A PFD Task Team, composed of 15 representatives from among the PFD members, undertakes preparatory work. UCLG-MEWA is one of the members of the task team. The PFD platform is a hub of more than 60 local government and civil society networks representing different regions of the world. UCLG, together with its sections, is among the members of the platform. In this regard, UCLG-MEWA actively participates in the PFD and PFD Task Team meetings and represents the local governments in the region. The meetings attended during the reporting process are as follows:

- **Policy Forum on Development Task Team Meeting**

Representatives of institutions and organizations that are members of the Policy Forum on Development Task Team met in Brussels on January 22, 2019. Task Team members, including UCLG-MEWA, evaluated the preparations for the 7th Global Meeting of the PDF on 13-15 March 2019. At the said meeting, the preparatory work carried out by UCLG-MEWA for the panelists who represented local governments in the thematic sessions of the Global Meeting was also discussed. As a result of the consultations, it was decided that the Union of Municipalities of Turkey would take part in the “Volunteer National Reviews” session of the program, and the Municipality of Ramallah, Palestine, took part in the “Environmental Resilience” session.

- **7th Global Meeting of the Policy Forum on Development**

The 7th global meeting of the Policy Forum on Development was held in Brussels, Belgium between 13-15 March 2019. At the event organized by the European Commission, local government and civil society representatives from all over the world, especially from the countries within the scope of the European Neighborhood Policy, came together to discuss the EU’s development policies. UCLG-MEWA also took part in this program as a member of the PFD Task Team. In the session titled “Volunteer National Reviews” of the program, a presentation was made by the Union of Municipalities of Turkey, a member of UCLG-MEWA. In the presentation, the preparatory work of Turkey, which was among the countries that presented a report to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in 2019, for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, was conveyed.
Policy Forum on Development Asia Regional Meeting

The Policy Forum on Development Asia Regional Meeting convened in Kathmandu, Nepal. At the meeting of the PFD, of which UCLG-MEWA is also a member of the Task Team, between 24-26 September, cooperation opportunities with local governments and non-governmental organizations in Asia were evaluated. Within the scope of the meeting, information about the development support of the European Commission was also provided by the European Commission officials.

Policy Forum on Development Europe and Neighboring Countries Meeting

The Policy Forum on Development (PFD) Europe and Neighboring Regions Meeting was held online on July 17, 2020. At the event, which was attended by the members of the PFD Task Team as well as the representatives of the European Union, opinions and suggestions regarding the financial programs to be implemented by the EU between 2021-2027 were shared.

Consultations were initiated within the scope of the preparations for the EU Multi-annual Financial Framework to be updated in 2020. This process, which is comprised of online regional meetings, was initiated with the PFD Europe and Neighboring Regions Meeting. The meeting, which also included UCLG-MEWA, a member of the PFD Task Team representing the EU Neighborhood Region, discussed the new budgeting period and preparations for the issue.

Global Meeting of the Policy Forum on Development

The Global Meeting of the Policy Forum on Development was held on September 15, 2020 within the scope of the consultations initiated by the EU Commission on the budgetary work of the Union. In this context, opinions and suggestions were received from local government and civil society experts from across the world. As a member of the PFD Task Team, UCLG-MEWA supported the preparations for the PFD Global Meeting, which is fed by regional meetings.

European Commission PFD Closing Meeting on Planning Consultation

The Policy Forum on Development began in April with a wide array of online consultations involving more than 360 organizations. Focusing on its role within the European Union programming framework, the online Forum continued with the participation of the PFD members in the form of a series of thematic meetings.

The session, which was held on December 10, 2020, was chaired by Jutta Urpilainen, the Commissioner for International Partnerships, with the participation of Uganda Local Government Association (ULGA), Asia Pacific Research Network (APRN) Secretary General Jazminda Lumang, UCLG Africa Secretary General Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi, East African Local Government Association (EALGA) Secretary General Gertrude Rose Gamweira, and Arab NGO Network for Development Executive Director Ziad Abdel Samad. UCLG-MEWA actively participated in the meeting as a member of the PFD Task Force, representing the EU Neighborhood Region.

CSO-LA Consultation on “the EU Regional Multi-annual Indicative Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa” by Policy Forum on Development

On March 23, 2021, in cooperation with the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the European Commission’s Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA), an online meeting entitled CSO-LA Consultation on “the EU Regional Multi-annual Indicative Programme for Sub-Saharan Africa” was hosted by the Policy Forum on Development (PFD)

Hans-Christian Stausboll, Head of Unit for Regional and Multi-Country Programs for Africa at the DG INTPA, outlined priorities on the basis of the Multi-annual Indicative Programme. During
the meeting, Green Transition, Digital Transformation and Economic Integration, Investment and Employment, Peace and Security, Governance and Human Development, and Migration and Mobility sessions were held. Salim Korkmaz, UCLG-MEWA General Coordinator, was the rapporteur of the session on migration and mobility, moderated by Victoria García Guillén.

4.2. World Cities Congress Istanbul’19

The fourth World Cities Congress Istanbul was organized between 13-15 March in Yenikapı Eurasia Exhibition and Art Center. Hosted by the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, the congress brought together more than 140 speakers from 12 countries and 120 cities under 9 sessions; many technological developments in the fields of disaster, health, security, agriculture, and energy were shared with the participants. The “Sustainability in Smart Cities” session was held under the moderation of Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, within the scope of the program, which was held with the participation of the host Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality as well as the Ministry of Industry and Technology of Turkey.

4.3. IREMCON International Environmental Conference

The IREMCOM International Environmental Conference was held on March 28-29 in the Istanbul Expo Center. Mohammed Saadie, the then UCLG-MEWA Co-President and President of the Union of Dannieh Municipalities, and Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, participated in the program which brought together many representatives from the public and private sectors, as well as nonprofit organizations. In the session titled “The Importance of International Collaborations for Sustainable Development” organized within the scope of the program, Mohamed Saadie, the then UCLG-MEWA Co-President, made a presentation on Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions.

4.4. Energy Efficiency Forum and Exhibition

The 10th Energy Efficiency Forum, which is the most significant event in the sector of energy efficiency in Turkey, was held on 11-12 April 2019 at Istanbul Lutfi Kirdar International Convention and Exhibition Center (ICEC). On the second day of the program, which was held under the theme of “As a Resource: Energy Efficiency - Hidden Treasure in Energy”, Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, moderated the session on “Best Practices in Energy Efficiency.”

4.5. Expo Heritage Istanbul 2019 Exhibition and Conference

Heritage İstanbul Restorasyon, Arkeoloji ve Müzeçilik Teknolojileri Fuarı ve Konferansı 11-13 Organized by Tg Expo in collaboration with Cultural Heritage Platforms and KOSGEB, the Herit-
age Istanbul Restoration, Archeology, and Muse-
ology Technologies Exhibition & Conference was
held in Istanbul, between 11-13 April 2019. Istanbul
Metropolitan Municipality and Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality, which are among the members of UCLG-MEWA, also took part in the event with participants from 15 different countries. The program was also followed by the UCLG-MEWA Secretariat and the Committee on Culture.

4.6. Forum of Workshops for Sustainable Cities

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) organized “The Forum of 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, also attended the event. The program also hosted a large number of representatives from local governments in Palestine, Lebanon, Amman, and Muscat.

4.7. Awareness-Raising Seminar on the Protection of Cultural Heritage

The “Awareness Raising Seminar on the Protection of Cultural Heritage”, organized by Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, took place on May 9-10, 2019. The sessions of the seminars hosted many representatives from different sectors and occupations, including academicians, as well as students, non-governmental organizations, local governments, artists, and artisans. Within the scope of the program, Istanbul Kültür A.Ş., the affiliate of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and the term President of the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Culture, made a presentation about research and documentation studies carried out by the municipality on intangible cultural heritage.

4.8. Power the Revolution for Climate Action Project Closing Meeting

The closing meeting, organized by Denizli Metropolitan Municipality within the scope of the Power the Revolution for Climate Action Project, was held on June 13, 2019. Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, chaired the session, which was held under the theme of “Building Environmentally Resilient Cities” within the scope of the program. Within the scope of the program of Denizli Metropolitan Municipality, Ali Değirmenci, Denizli City Council President; and Prof. Mahmut Güngör, Director General of Denizli Metropolitan Municipality Water and Sewerage Administration, were visited.
4.9. International Workshop on Culture and Creativity for Strengthening Cooperation

Within the scope of the “Kütahya Municipality (Turkey) and Pécs Municipality (Hungary) Town Twinning Program” by the European Union Grant Scheme, the “International Workshop on Culture and Creativity for Strengthening Cooperation” was held. Within the scope of the workshop, Salim Korkmaz, UCLG-MEWA General Coordinator, conveyed the structure and functioning of UCLG and UCLG-MEWA and their strategies for culture to the participants. In addition, project ideas were discussed at the roundtable meetings moderated by the UCLG-MEWA General Coordinator.

4.10. Workshop on Temporary Protection

In the framework of the EU-funded “Supporting National Institutions in Turkey to Mitigate the Impact of the Syrian Refugee Crisis Project” organized with the financial support of the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the Directorate General of Migration Management of Turkey, the EU and Turkey, the event entitled ‘Workshop on Temporary Protection’ was held on 21-23 August 2019. Within the scope of the workshop in question, a presentation was made by UCLG-MEWA on the work carried out in the field of migration within the scope of the Committee on Social Inclusion.

4.11. WorldFood Istanbul 2019

The 27th WorldFood Istanbul Fair, the international meeting point of the food industry, was held at the TÜYAP Fair and Congress Center between 4-7 September 2019. Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, took part as a speaker in the panel titled “Tips from Masters – Taste the Future!” organized within the scope of the fair. In the presentation made by the Secretary General, the relationship between food and sustainable development was emphasized.

4.12. Focus Group Meeting for Inclusive City Project

The Istanbul Focus Group Meeting for a Social Innovation Experiment Project for Building an Inclusive City (POT-A), which completed its first year under the leadership of Yıldız Technical University, was conducted on September 11, 2019. International organizations such as UCLG-MEWA and UNHCR also participated in the Focus Group Meeting of the project, which aims to facilitate the adaptation processes of immigrants to urban spaces in cities receiving heavy migration and to increase the inclusive capacity of cities.

4.13. Kartepe Summit 2019

The third Kartepe Summit was held under the auspices of Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality on October 25 and 27, 2019 under the theme of “Ur-
banization and Happy Cities”. The UCLG-MEWA Secretariat also actively participated in the program, and a presentation was made by Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, in the session titled “The United Nations and the Future of Cities”. The presentation made by the Secretary General focused on the New Urban Agenda and the Bogota Commitment.

4.14. Smart Cities and Municipalities Congress and Exhibition

The Smart Cities and Municipalities Congress and Exhibition was held on January 15-16, 2020 in Ankara, Turkey by the Union of Municipalities of Turkey (UMT) under the auspices of the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey. In the event, in which 3 main sessions, 12 panels, and 6 seminars were held in total, many member municipalities of UCLG-MEWA, including Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, Ankara Metropolitan Municipality, Adana Metropolitan Municipality, Konya Metropolitan Municipality, Kahramanmaraş Metropolitan Municipality, Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality, Çanakkale Municipality, and Sultangeyl Municipality, participated in the sessions and stands. Speaking at the “Transforming Cities with Innovative Local Policies” session, Uğur Ibrahim Altay, Mayor of Konya, underlined that UCLG-MEWA is the driving force in terms of showcasing their efforts in the international arena.

4.15. 10th World Urban Forum

The 10th World Urban Forum was held between 8-13 February 2020, at the Abu Dhabi National Fair, hosted by the Abu Dhabi Municipality. At the Forum, which hosted more than 13,000 participants, a joint call for action was made for the building of a better future for cities. The United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA) Meeting was also held within the scope of the Forum, which continued for six days with more than 540 official events. UCLG-MEWA President Mohamed Saadie represented the MEWA Region at UNACLA which came together to bring local governments closer to global agendas. In addition, the priorities of the MEWA Region were shared at the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments, during the sessions organized under the theme of Urban Planning in Post-Conflict/Post-Crisis Context and Enhancing the Positive Impact of Urban Migration.

The UCLG-MEWA Delegation, which participated in the Forum, held meetings in order to strengthen its relations with local governments and diplomatic missions in the region. The delegation paid a visit to the Ambassador of Lebanon to United Arab Emirates, Fouad Shehab Dan, and the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to the UAE, Can Dizdar.
4.16. RUPAM Talks

UCLG-MEWA Secretary General Mehmet Duman took part as a speaker in the talks on “Local Governments in Outbreak” organized by Istanbul Rumeli University’s Global Policies Research Center (RUPAM) on June 5, 2020. In his speech, Secretary General Duman shared the work carried out by Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, which is the host city of UCLG-MEWA, Balıkesir Metropolitan Municipality, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, Nevşehir Municipality, Mersin Metropolitan Municipality, Bağcılar Municipality, WALD, Union of Dannieh Municipalities, Tehran Municipality, and Ramallah Municipality in the fight against the pandemic.

4.17. Collingwood World Summit

Habitat in Towns: Collingwood World Summit, organized on the occasion of Canada Day in cooperation with the Urban Economy Forum and UN-Habitat, was held on July 2, 2020. At the Summit, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General Mehmet Duman shared the perspective of UCLG-MEWA, which works with UCLG on Intermediary Cities, on the advantages and disadvantages of intermediary cities during the pandemic.

4.18. Eurasian Congress of Local Governments

The 8th Eurasian Congress of Local Governments was held on 25 June 2021 by the UCLG Eurasia Section. At the round table meeting titled “Waste Management”, Salim Korkmaz, UCLG-MEWA General Coordinator, shared the waste management experiences in the MEWA Region through the examples of Jordan, Iran, Qatar, and Turkey.

4.19. Gastronomic Brand Cities Panel

The Gastro Show event was organized by the Gastronomy Tourism Association at the Istanbul Congress Center on 28-30 June 2021. As part of the event, the panel titled “Importance of Gastronomy Tourism in the Branding of Cities” was held under the moderation of Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General. At the panel, presentations were made on the prominent gastronomic elements of cities by Alinur Aktaş, Mayor of Bursa; Lütfü Savas, Mayor of Hatay; Murat Zorluoğlu, Mayor of Trabzon; Nidai Güngördü, Mayor of Kyrenia and President of the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Culture and Tourism; and Oğuzhan Ata Sadıkoğlu, Chairman of the Board of Malatya Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

4.20. Marmara Urban Forum (MARUF)

The Marmara Urban Forum (MARUF), which was organized for the second time in 2021 by the Marmara Municipalities Union, which is among the members of UCLG-MEWA, was held on 1-3 October with the cooperation of UN-Habitat. At the Forum, which was held with the follow-up
and participation of the UCLG-MEWA Secretariat and its members, a presentation was made by the UCLG-MEWA Secretariat in the session titled “Energy Transition for Climate-resilient Cities: The Case of Turkish Municipalities”.

4.21. UCLG 2nd World Forum of Intermediary Cities

The 2nd World Forum of Intermediary Cities, the first edition of which was held by Chefchaouen Municipality in Morocco, took place on 5-8 October 2021 under the auspices of Kütahya Municipality. Held in a hybrid format under the theme of “Living Systems for a Resilient Future”, the Forum was organized with the contributions of the OECD Development Center, Cities Alliance, UN Habitat, UNDP, International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (IOPD), ICLEI, and the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM). The Forum, which was held with the active participation of Italy, which holds the G20 term presidency, at the ministerial level, was also the start of an important global dialogue between local governments and the G20.

Within the scope of the Forum, a special session titled “Intermediary Cities for Water Justice: From a regional to a global dynamic” was organized by UCLG-MEWA on October 6, 2021, and the session was moderated by UNDP Turkey. In addition to UCLG-MEWA President Mohamed Saadie, representatives of Gebze Municipality, Kyrenia Municipality, Güzelyurt Municipality, Palestine Water Administration, Ajloun Municipality, and Gölcük Municipality from the MEWA Region actively participated in the sessions held within the scope of the Forum.

4.22. Consultation Workshop with Local Authorities in the Field of Migration

The Consultation Workshop with Local Authorities in the Field of Migration was organized by the Republic of Turkey General Directorate of Migration Management on 27-28 October. A presentation titled “Local Context in International Migration Studies” was made with the active participation of the UCLG-MEWA Secretariat in the aforementioned event.

4.23. SDG Cities Global Conference

The SDG Cities Global Conference, the first of which was held on 29-31 October 2021, was organized in collaboration with UN-Habitat, Shanghai Municipality, and the Global Sustainability Index Institute. In the program organized on the occasion of World Cities Day, Salim Korkmaz, UCLG-MEWA General Coordinator, and Dr. Gosh-tasb Mozafari, AMF Secretary General, delivered speeches on sustainable development activities in the MEWA Region.

4.24. III. Symposium on City Councils

Organized by the Union of City Councils of Turkey, the III. Symposium on City Councils was held on 18-20 November 2021, hosted by Balıkesir City Council with the theme of Cooperation and Solidarity in the Cities of the Future. The City, Culture, and Identity Panel organized within the scope of the program was moderated by Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General. Among the speakers of the event were Tülin Hadi, President of the Istanbul City Council; Prof. Dr. İlham Enveroğlu from Selçuk University; Özhan Eren, Turkish music artist; Prof. Dr. Mehmet Narlı, Balıkesir University Vice-Rector; and Nuray Akçasoy, President of Eskişehir City Council.
4.25. 6th Conference on Urban Studies
The 6th Conference on Urban Studies, organized by the Institute of Urban Studies in 2021, was held online with the participation of academics, local government representatives, central government representatives, and representatives of non-governmental organizations. In the opening session of the program held under the theme of Urban Transportation, a speech on the slow streets approach was made by Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General. Salim Korkmaz, UCLG-MEWA General Coordinator, made a presentation on the role of the Sustainable Development Goals in the context of urban transportation in the session themed Urban Transportation on the Axis of Sustainable Development.

4.26. Global Compact on Refugees High-Level Officials Meeting
The High-Level Officials Meeting, which was held two years after the Global Refugees Forum (GRF), held every four years and evaluates the progress within the scope of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), was held on 14-15 December 2021. As part of the preparations for the meeting, five thematic round table meetings were held between 16 November - 2 December 2021. Representatives from Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia from the MEWA Region took part in the meeting. The meeting was followed by the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Social Inclusion Secretariat.

4.27. Climate Shura Local Governments Commission Meetings
In line with Turkey’s 2053 net zero emission goal and green development policy, it has decided to organize a Climate Shura in order to determine sectoral targets, contribute to the legislation to be developed on climate, determine basic policies for different sectors, and create a road map. One of the commissions formed in this context, and UCLG-MEWA is also included, the Local Administrations Commission, came together on the online platform on 5, 7, 12 and 26 January 2022. As a result of the studies, the current situation and problems were tried to be revealed, and accordingly, policy determination and prioritization studies were carried out. Finally, at the meeting held in Konya between 21-25 February, the policy document determined in the previous meetings was discussed and approved to be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change.

4.28. Resilient Cities Resilient Women Workshop
On the occasion of March 8, International Women’s Day, Esenyurt Municipality, Esenyurt City Council, and Global Equality and Inclusion Network Association organized a Resilient Cities Resilient Women Workshop. In the program attended by representatives from different disciplines, the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Gender Equality Secretariat participated in the round table meeting on the theme of the Right to the City and conveyed the work of UCLG-MEWA and its regional strategy for gender equality.

4.29. Arab Forum on Sustainable Development
The Arab Forum on Sustainable Development (AFSD), organized by UN ESCWA (United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia), was held in Beirut on March 15-17, 2022. Within the scope of the Forum, which was held with the participation of high-level figures such as Abdullah Shahid, President of the UN General Assembly; Dr. Rola Dashti, Executive Secretary of ESCW; Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary General of the UN and Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Group; Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary General of the Arab League; and Nasser Shraideh, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and Chair of the AFSD, discussions were held on examining the progress of SDG in Arab countries and ensuring its representation in the High Level Political Forum (HLPF). In the pro-
gram, in which the UCLG-MEWA secretariat also participated, local reporting studies carried out for SDGs in the MEWA Region were shared.

4.30. Kadıköy Sustainable Cities Summit

The Sustainable Cities Summit, organized by the Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), Kadıköy Municipality, and Izmir Metropolitan Municipality, hosted the Kadıköy Municipality, was held in a hybrid format on March 18, 2021. Within the scope of the Summit, which was held with the participation of Gino Van Begin, Secretary General of ICLEI; Şerdil Dara Odabaşı, Mayor of Kadıköy; and Tunç Soyer, Mayor of Izmir, discussions were held on what cities can do for the future of the world, relations with international fund organizations, green city investments, circular culture, circular life, and VLR processes. UCLG-MEWA and UCLG secretariats also participated in the program.

4.31. Büyükçekmece Municipality Vision 2050 Workshop

The Environment and Immigration Workshops, organized within the scope of the 2050 Büyükçekmece Vision organized by Büyükçekmece Municipality, which is one of the members of UCLG-MEWA, were held on March 18, 2022. UCLG-MEWA also participated in the round table work titled Immigration and Environment of the workshop series organized to shape the 2050 vision of Büyükçekmece by bringing together different segments of society, and contributed to the work in light of the activities carried out under the Committees on Social Inclusion and Environment.

4.32. EKO Iklim Summit

The EKO Iklim Summit, which was organized under the leadership of the Ankara Chamber of Commerce (ATO), was held on March 30-31 at the ATO Congressium. At the summit, where stakeholders from the private and public sectors and local governments were present, the climate crisis and its effects on various sectors were discussed. Uğur İbrahim Altay, UCLG Co-President and Mayor of Konya; Yücel Yılmaz, UCLG-MEWA Co-President and Mayor of Balıkesir; Mansur Yavaş, Mayor of Ankara and UCLG-MEWA Ombudsman; Fatma Şahin, President of the Union of Municipalities of Turkey and the Committee on City Diplomacy and Local Governance, took place as speaker in the session titled “Green Transition in Metropolitan Cities”, which was held on the first day of
the Summit. On the second day of the Summit, in the session titled “Green Transition in Local Governments”, moderated by Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, the municipalities talked about green transition projects and best practices they are carrying out in their municipalities. In the session held with the participation of Lokman Atasoy, Advisor to the Mayor of Antalya; Celal Köse, Mayor of Yozgat; Selim Utku Gümrükçü, Mayor of Çiğli; and Zinnur Büyükgöz, Mayor of Gebze, the participants presented the works and best practices in their municipalities.

4.33. Peer Learning Program: Migration and Displacement in the Contexts of Crisis

The peer learning program, titled “Migration and Displacement in the Contexts of Crisis: What are Local and Regional Governments (LRGs) doing to save and protect lives?” was held online between 11-13 April 2022. The event was organized by the GFMD Mayors Mechanism, which is carried out by UCLG, the Mayors Migration Council (MMC), and the International Organization for Migration. The event, which was organized in order to highlight the approaches of local and regional governments during the crisis, to share the practices from different regions and their experiences during the crisis, and to contribute to the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), which will be held on May 17-20, lasted 3 days. Yehia IBRAHIM, officer of the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Social Inclusion, provided facilitation on behalf of the Global Task Force on Migration in the experience sharing sessions attended by the representatives of the Municipality of Fuenlabrada from Spain, Notse Municipality from Togo, Dedougou Municipality from Burkina Faso, Municipality of Cauayan from the Philippines, Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality from Turkey, and Municipal Association of Bangladesh from Bangladesh.
5. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING

5.1. UCLG-MEWA Retreat
5.2. Employee Training
5. INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING

In this section, institutional capacity building is discussed through the Retreats, which are a dialogue platform with the members and stakeholders of the organization, and the training programs organized for UCLG-MEWA personnel.

5.1. UCLG-MEWA Retreats

UCLG-MEWA has decided to organize Retreats in order to strengthen the ecosystem of members and stakeholders and to determine the regional road map through a participatory process. Increasing the regional representation of the organization, creating a common calendar and synergy with the institutions that are closely following the global municipal movement, and increasing the efficiency of the secretariat work are the main motivations for the organization of these meetings, especially in the meetings held with the participation of the presidency, committee presidents, and strategic partners of the organization. The meetings included thematic issues as well as administrative issues.

The second UCLG-MEWA Retreat, which was initiated in 2018, was held in Istanbul in February 2019, together with the closing meeting of the Pilot Project on Mapping the Sustainable Development Goals in Turkey. Due to the effects of the epidemic that started towards the end of the year and rapidly affected the whole world, the Retreat for 2020 could not be held, especially since physical participation from different countries would not be possible. UCLG-MEWA’s road map was determined with the contribution of the outputs obtained by integrating the topics planned to be discussed in these meetings into the administrative meetings and thematic programs of the Organization.

➢ UCLG-MEWA Special Session

As the Retreat organized by UCLG in 2021 already includes special sessions for all sections and these parts are designed to share regional strategies and priorities, the retreat topics for 2021 were discussed within the scope of the MEWA Special Ses-
cision. Regional priorities were shared with the participants with the explanations of the UCLG-MEWA Presidency and secretariat staff. The activities carried out by the Organization to monitor the 2030 Agenda and the increasing demand for VLR writing in the MEWA Region were the highlights of this session reserved for the MEWA Region.

➢ UCLG-MEWA Retreat’22

“Revitalizing the Regional Synergy”

UCLG-MEWA Retreat 2022 was held in Kocaeli on February 15-16, both in physical and online participation. At the meeting held under the motto “Revitalizing the Regional Synergy”, UCLG-MEWA’s presidency, committee presidents/co-presidents, and strategic partners came together. On the first day of the meeting, the Presidency Special Session on the candidacy processes and regional strategy was held before the UCLG-MEWA Congress, and the administrative sessions where the visibility of the Organization and secretariat activities were organized. On the second day, sessions were held with the theme of “The Middle East and West Asia in the Decade of Action for Sustainable Development Goals.” A keynote speech entitled “How Can Sustainable Development Gain Momentum at the Local Level?” was given by Dr. Shipra Narang Suri, Chief of Urban Practices Branch, UN Habitat. In the sessions held after the program, a session was held in which the experiences of the cities that prepared the VLR and are currently carrying out this work were conveyed. In the last session of the program, the activities carried out for the localization of SDGs were shared by the representatives of UN Habitat, Metropolis, UNDP IIICPSD, CEMR, UCLG Eurasia, INGEV, OECD, and UNDP Turkey, and cooperation areas that could be developed in this field were tried to be revealed.

5.2. Employee Training

➢ UCLG Learning Module Training

Having an intense agenda on the basis of Sustainable Development Goals, especially since 2018, UCLG-MEWA has also focused on its own institutional capacity building in order to better mobilize its members in line with this agenda and to carry out regional studies more effectively. In this context, a training program was organized for the UCLG-MEWA Secretariat on February 28, 2019, by UCLG Learning, the unit of the UCLG World Organization responsible for the development and implementation of learning methodology and related policies. While learning activities on the first part of Module 1, titled Localization of Sustainable Development Goals, with the theme of Awareness-raising, were carried out; the general strategy of UCLG regarding the second part, with the theme of Alignment, and the third part, with the theme of Reporting, was shared.

➢ Training on EU Projects and Funding Sources

The implementation of projects related to the priority areas specified in the UCLG-MEWA’s Strategic Plan for 2019-2022 and the provision of necessary support to the members are among the issues that the Organization attaches importance to in the new period. In this context, institutional capacity building activities were initiated around the projects planned for the next
term. In this context, a training program for the UCLG-MEWA was organized by Karesi Municipality and representatives of the Smart Project Academy Education Project Consultancy and Organization on December 23, 2019, for the project and funding sources.

- **Training of Trainers for the Resilience Learning Module**

The second volume of the Resilience Module, which aims to make cities resilient in terms of disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management, was published by UCLG under the title of Strategies and Actions. For the module in question, a training of trainers was organized by the UCLG Learning team on 30-31 August 2021. Representatives of UCLG-ASPAC, UCLG-MEWA, UCLG Eurasia, UCLG Africa, and UCLG Europe, as well as the French Union of Municipalities and the Union of Municipalities of the Philippines, attended the training. Within the framework of the training, the participants were informed through interactive studies aimed at building a resilient city through the eyes of different sector representatives in the city. Following this activity, the UCLG-MEWA secretariat plans to organize a training program for members in the MEWA Region.
6. STRENGTHENING OF INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

6.1. Working Visits
6.2. Cooperation Agreements
6.3. Participation in Administrative Meetings
6. STRENGTHENING OF INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

Working visits between institutions, cooperation agreements signed, and participation in administrative meetings where the strategies of institutions that have common members and fields of activity with UCLG-MEWA are determined, are discussed in this section as activities that strengthen institutional relations in the 2019-2022 period of activity.

6.1. Working Visits

During the 2019-2022 period, study visits were organized by UCLG-MEWA to different institutions at the level of the presidency and secretariat, and similarly, visits were made to the UCLG-MEWA General Secretariat by different sector representatives. During the visits, the current and planned activities of the organization were shared, and discussions were held about the visited institution’s expectations of UCLG-MEWA and possible cooperation areas.

Some of the high-level representatives visited during this reporting period, along with their years, are as follows:

2019
- Mahmut Özçinar, President of the Union of Cyprus Turkish Municipalities
- Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to TRNC
- Nidai Güngördü, Mayor of Kyrenia
- Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus
- Mayor of İskele
- Mayor of Beyarmudu
- Fatih Pişin, Istanbul Development Agency Secretary General
- Şerdi Dara Odabaşi, Mayor of Kadıköy
- Zinnur Büyükgöz, Mayor of Gebze
- Assoc. Prof. Birol Ekici, Secretary General of Union of Municipalities of Turkey
- Mansur Yavaş, Mayor of Ankara (UCLG-MEWA Ombudsman)
- Hana Abu Ramadan, Consul General of Palestine in Istanbul
- Mounir Anouti, Consul General of Lebanon in Istanbul
- Bart Van Bolhuis, Consul General of the Netherlands in Istanbul
Some of the high-level representatives who visited the UCLG-MEWA General Secretariat during the reporting period, along with their years, are listed below:

2019
- Mayor of Tunisia
- Gürkan Boztepe, President of Gastronomy Tourism Association
- Ambassador Christian Berger, Head of European Union Delegation to Turkey
- Kourosh Moghtaderi, Cultural Attaché at the Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Iran
- Vahap Seçer, Mayor of Mersin (the then UCLG-MEWA Co-President)
- Fatma Şahin, Mayor of Mersin (the then UCLG-MEWA-President)

2020
- Dato’ Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari, Secretary General of the Developing-8 (D-8)
- Dr. Fahri Solak, Secretary General of the Union of Turkish World Municipalities
- Dr. Mustafa Çöpoğlu, Secretary General of East Marmara Development Agency
- Mehmeh Yasin Özlü, Mayor of Başiskele
- Zinnur Büyükgöz, Mayor of Gebze
- Murat Aydn, Mayor of Beykoz
- Numan Hatıooğlu, District Governor of Gaziosmanpaşa in Istanbul.

2021
- Atty. Şeyma Döğücü, Mayor of Sancaktepe
- Lokman Çağırıcı, Mayor of Bağcılar
- Gökhan Yüksel, Mayor of Kartal
- Ali Kiliç, Mayor of Maltepe
- M. Tunç Soyer, Mayor of İzmir
- Yavuz Selim Köşker, Governor of İzmir
- Prof. Dr. Alim Işık, Mayor of Kütahya
- Ali Çelik, Governor of Kütahya
2020
- Prof. Dr. Muhammed Khair Alghabbani, President of International Union of Universities
- Mohamad Alloouch, Mayor of Kosrsayta
- Mohamed Saadie, UCLG-MEWA President

2021
- Atty. Ali Yıldırım Sezer, Mayor of Gölcük
- Yücel Yılmaz, UCLG-MEWA Co-President and Mayor of Balıkesir
- Alvaro Rodríguez, UN Resident Coordinator in Turkey
- Dr. Zoheir Sabaghpour, Deputy Mayor of International Affairs at Tehran Municipality
- Hasan Kilca, Mayor of Karatay
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Maan Chibli, Bahçeşehir University Faculty Member
- Prof. Dr. Abdullah Attia, Head of the Department of Islamic Archeology, Faculty of Fine Arts, Mansoura University of Egypt; Goshtasb Mozafari, Secretary General of the Asian Mayors Forum (AMF); and Amir Foad Mohseni, Deputy Secretary General of AMF
- Ganbayar G. Harnuud, Turkey Representative of the Mongolian Association of Local Authorities
- Ahmed Al Subaih, Secretary General of the Arab Towns Organization (ATO)
- Dr. Sedžad Milanović, Minister of Economy and Tourism of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Prof. Sead Čaušević, Mayor of Gornji Vakuf; and Yusuf Tarık Uçar, Vice President of Forensic Medicine Institute
- Ahmad Al Soofi, Mayor of Rafah
- Dr. Anwar Abu Zarifa, Mayor of Abasan al-Kabira
- Ahmet Turan Koçer, Advisor to the Mayor of Diyarbakır
- Majdi Al Saleh, Minister of Local Governments of Palestine
6.2. Cooperation Agreements

- **Memorandum of Understanding between Busworld Foundation & UCLG-MEWA**

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Busworld Foundation and UCLG-MEWA in 2020 to encourage the development of sustainable transport and bus systems and the strengthening of public-private partnerships in this field.

- **Memorandum of Understanding between UNDP & UCLG-MEWA**

A Memorandum of Understanding, which includes joint activities between UNDP and UCLG-MEWA in the field of sustainable, inclusive, and resilient urbanization, was signed in 2021. Within the framework of this agreement, activities were carried out to strengthen the cooperation between the local government and the private sector throughout the year.

- **Cooperation Agreement between the Association for Supporting Women Candidates & UCLG-MEWA**

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Association for Supporting Women Candidates (KA.DER) and UCLG-MEWA in order to increase the participation of women in decision-making mechanisms at the local level, to ensure institutionalization of gender equality, and to carry out joint activities on strengthening the capacities of local governments. Within the framework of this agreement, the two organizations carried out a project called Monitoring Equality in Municipalities.

- **Memorandum of Understanding between Asian Mayors Forum & UCLG-MEWA**

UCLG-MEWA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Asian Mayors Forum to promote the localization of global agendas and expand the membership networks of both organizations in 2021. Following this Memorandum, it was planned to enable Iranian cities to take a more active part in the global municipal works followed up by UCLG-MEWA.

- **Cooperation Agreement between UN-Habitat & UCLG-MEWA**

2022 Amman (Jordan) and Agadir Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) will be prepared in collaboration with UN-Habitat and UCLG-MEWA. A cooperation agreement was signed in 2021 between these two organizations for joint studies to be carried out in the Middle East, North Africa, and West Asia, both for the follow-up of VLR activities in these two cities and for the implementation of global studies such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.

- **Cooperation Agreement between Rasyo Fuarcilik & UCLG-MEWA**

Colors of the World Fair, which is planned to be held in Istanbul in 2022, will be organized by UCLG-MEWA and Rasyo Fuarcilik in cooperation. A cooperation agreement was signed in 2021 between Rasyo Fuarcilik and UCLG-MEWA within the framework of the event, which is open to the participation of city representatives from the MEWA Region and all over the world.

6.3. Participation in Administrative Meetings of Our Stakeholders

- **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 (TDBB), which is among the members of UCLG-MEWA,
was held on May 2, 2019, in Istanbul. Representatives from 30 different countries attended the meeting where the governing bodies for the new period of the organization were determined. Mohamed Saadie, the then UCLG-MEWA Co-President, and Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, were among the participants. In the speech delivered by Mehmet Duman, UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, within the scope of the meeting, the areas of cooperation in the geography where the two organizations operate jointly were emphasized.

Arab Towns Organization General Conference and Executive Board

The 18th General Conference and Executive Board of the Arab Towns Organization (ATO) took place in Amman, Jordan, on June 24-25, 2019. Within the scope of the program, in which the UCLG-MEWA Secretariat also participated, the administrative issues of the ATO as well as the areas of cooperation with its partners were discussed.

7th Executive Board Meeting of the Asian Mayors Forum

The Executive Bureau Meeting of the Asian Mayors Forum was held online on June 22, 2020, under the theme of “Urban Health and Economy after Coronavirus Outbreak.” In the meeting attended by Fatma Şahin, Mayor of Gaziantep and Term President of the AMF; Mohamed Saadie, President of UCLG-MEWA and the Union of Dannieh Municipalities, emphasized need to strengthen cooperation between AMF and UCLG-MEWA.

6th General Assembly of the Asian Mayors Forum

UCLG-MEWA Secretary General Mehmet Duman attended the 6th General Assembly Meeting of the Asian Mayors Forum (AMF) held in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, online. In the speech delivered by the UCLG-MEWA Secretary General, the close cooperation between the AMF and UCLG-MEWA was emphasized, and a perspective on the scope of future work was presented.
7. REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS
7. REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

- **Final Report of the Pilot Project on Mapping the Sustainable Development Goals in Turkey**
  The Pilot Project on Mapping the Sustainable Development Goals in Turkey, completed in 2019, was prepared as a result of two-day workshops held with each of the 15 municipalities. The report includes the alignment of a total of 2223 projects and activities carried out by the municipalities involved in the project with the SDGs. The report has been published in English, Turkish, and Arabic.

- **Book on Local Governments in the Middle East and West Asia**
  The Book on Local Governments in the Middle East and West Asia, which is one of the main publications of UCLG-MEWA and examines the local government systems of countries in the Middle East and West Asia, was prepared by Dr. Maan Chibli, Associate Professor of Architecture & Urban Planning, Bahçeşehir University; and Prof. Dr. Adem Esen, Lecturer of Political Sciences at Istanbul University. The book is published in Turkish, English, and Arabic languages.

- **Turkish-English Dictionary of Cultural Heritage**
  The Turkish-English Dictionary of Cultural Heritage, the first dictionary study of UCLG-MEWA, is one of the reference publications for cultural heritage conservation and management terminology and fills an important gap in this field. The dictionary, prepared by A. Ege Yıldırım and B. Nilgün Öz, addresses local governments as well as experts and researchers working in the field of culture and tourism.

- **Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Refugees and Local Governments**
  A report has been prepared by UCLG-MEWA to determine the impact of COVID-19 on refugees and local governments. In the first part of this report, which is prepared in two parts based on the results of the survey studies, the impact of the global epidemic on the districts hosting the highest number of refugees in Istanbul, and in the second part, what kinds of activities are carried out by different local governments in Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey to address the difficulties faced by refugees, are discussed. The report has been prepared in a single English, Turkish, and Arabic edition.

- **Local Government Talks 2: The Role of Local Governments in the Fight Against COVID-19 Pandemic and Normalization Process**
  Another of UCLG-MEWA’s publications during the COVID-19 process is The Role of Local Governments in the Fight Against COVID-19 Pandemic and Normalization Process. The issues discussed in the online talks in which the activities carried out by local governments in different countries from the MEWA Region on fighting against the epidemic were shared, transcribed and presented to the readers in Turkish.

- **Climate Action from Local Governments in the Middle East and West Asia**
  The report, titled “Climate Action from Local Governments in the Middle East and West Asia,” includes local governments report-
ing environmental data from the MEWA Region in 2020 through the CDP and ICLEI Unified Reporting System. This report, which is a joint work of CDP and UCLG-MEWA, has been prepared in English, Turkish, and Arabic.

- **International Cooperation between Local Governments: UCLG-MEWA (Turkish)**
  UCLG-MEWA supports academic studies that contribute to local government literature. In this direction, the thesis study titled “International Cooperation between Local Governments: UCLG-MEWA”, which was prepared by Müslüm Yıldız and discusses the institutional structure and functioning of UCLG-MEWA, was published in Turkish.

- **The Role of Local Governments in the Conservation of Cultural Heritage-Turkey**
  The book study titled The Role of Local Governments in the Conservation of Cultural Heritage-Turkey, which deals with tangible and intangible cultural heritage in a holistic framework, was prepared by Assoc. Dr. Özlem Karakul, and Dr. Lecturer Tuna Yıldız. The publication, coordinated by the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Culture and Tourism, includes the theoretical framework it draws for tangible and intangible cultural heritage, as well as the activities carried out by local governments on the conservation of cultural heritage.

- **Urban Mobility Report 2020**
  The Urban Mobility Report 2020, prepared in cooperation with the International Association of Public Transport (UITP) and UCLG-MEWA, deals with the current modes of transportation in the MEWA Region and the urban mobility trends of the future. The report was prepared in English, Turkish, and Arabic.

- **Anthology of Culture 21 Documents**
  The Anthology of Culture 21 Documents, prepared in cooperation with the UCLG-MEWA Committee on Culture and Tourism and the UCLG Committee on Culture, was created by bringing together the documents titled Culture 21: Actions; Culture in the Sustainable Development Goals: A Guide for Local Action; Ensuring Culture Fulfills Its Potential in Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic; 2020 Rome Charter - The Right to Participate Fully and Freely in Cultural Life Is Vital to Our Cities and Communities. The anthology was prepared in English and Turkish.

- **Syrians in Lebanon/Jordan/Turkey and the Role of Municipalities in Migration Management**
  Migration and migration management are among the priority agenda items in the MEWA Region, where receiving and sending countries are located. In this direction, updating the report series initiated in the past was initiated by UCLG-MEWA in order to reveal the current situation in these countries. The report series, conducted with experts in Lebanon, Jordan, and Turkey, has been prepared in English, Turkish and Arabic.
UCLG-MEWA Newsletter

The UCLG-MEWA Newsletter, the periodical of UCLG-MEWA, is prepared quarterly in English, Turkish, and Arabic and covers a certain theme in each issue. During this reporting period, the issues between 25th and 33rd (including) were brought together with the readers. The themes covered are as follows:

25th Issue
“Effective Planning, Strong Corporate Organization”

26th Issue
“Altering the Course of Tourism”

27th Issue
“Cities Are Not Parties to Conflict”

28th Issue
COVID-19
Special Issue “Cities Strike Back”

29th Issue
“United Nations from Local Governments’ Perspective”

30th Issue
“Green Recovery After COVID-19”

31st Issue
“From Implementation to Reporting: Cities Pioneering in SDG Localization”

32nd Issue
“Culture: the 4th Pillar of Sustainable Development”

33rd Issue
Special Issue “UCLG-MEWA from 2019 to 2022”
8. TOWARDS A STRONG LOCAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEWA REGION
8. TOWARDS A STRONG LOCAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEWA REGION

The 2019-2022 period of activity indicates a more effective regional representation for UCLG-MEWA, especially on global platforms. Although the existence of different local government systems in the region and the war, occupation, and conflict situations in the countries make it difficult to reach all countries in the region, UCLG-MEWA strengthens its capacity and increases its regional representation every year, especially to encourage its municipalities and municipal unions to integrate into global agendas. The result of these efforts showed itself, especially in the UN platforms in 2021. Regardless of the scale, all municipalities that wished to be active in localizing and monitoring global agendas have given a good account of themselves in this process with the technical support of UCLG-MEWA.

The Retreats, which started in 2018 and brought together UCLG-MEWA with its members and stakeholders, are an important milestone in institutional capacity building and effective regional representation of the Organization. Although there was an interruption due to the global epidemic in these meetings, which were held periodically during the period of activity that is the subject of the report, each Retreat is held in a more participatory, more responsive content and format than the previous one, which plays a strengthening role in the communication of members and stakeholders with UCLG-MEWA. Undoubtedly, one of the most important results of these meetings is the feedback from the members and stakeholders on the determination of the strategic priorities of the Organization. Similarly, the 5 thematic strategic priorities specified for the 2019-2022 period of activity determined the fields of activity of UCLG-MEWA. These activities, which were carried out under the facilitation of the committees, intensified, especially under the priority of Local Development and Governance in this period. The Organization’s mission has a significant impact, especially on the localization of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in the MEWA Region. During the period, UCLG-MEWA’s efforts towards the 2030 Agenda with its international stakeholders both strengthened the communication and coordination between institutions, and increased the Organization’s institutional knowledge and experience, enabling it to carry out more effective activities with its members.

In addition to the UN 2030 Agenda, UCLG-MEWA’s work on migration, which is a regional reality, has been one of the factors that has increased the Organization’s influence on global platforms. The Global Task Force on Migration, which was established under the presidency of the Committee on Social Inclusion, where the organization carries out its secretariat activities, organized activities on a global scale on Migration and Social Cohesion, which are also among the strategic priorities of the organization, in the 2019-2022 period of activity. The Task Force has served as a platform where representatives from different parts of the world and from different sectors come together to share knowledge and experiences on migration management and has also been instrumental in positioning UCLG-MEWA, which carries out its secretariat activities, in a place suitable for its regional reality.

Preparations have been initiated for UCLG-MEWA’s local development movement, which gained momentum in 2019-2022, to make positive progress in the new period in line with the UN 2030 Agenda and other global agendas. As the Secretariat, we are ready for effective regional work within the framework of strategic priorities with the new governing body to be determined at the UCLG-MEWA Congress to be held in Konya in May 2022!

We hope for the best in the new period of activity.

UCLG-MEWA Secretariat
We would like to express our thanks to our members who hosted our programs between 2019-2022 and to our stakeholders who contributed...

- UN-Habitat
- UMT
- TDBB
- Kibar Holding
- UNHCR
- IOM
- WALD
- TKKB
- Kocaeli Metropolitan Municipality
- İzmir Metropolitan Municipality
- İzmir SKGA
- Balıkesir Metropolitan Municipality
- KA.DER
- WRI Turkey
- YADA
- Active Living Association
- NDI
- UCLG Learning
- UNDP IICPSD
- UNDP Turkey
- UN SDSN
- AMF
- İNGEV
- ATO
- Kütahya Municipality

- SİDA
- EU
- Gebze Municipality
- UCLG
- Argüden Governance Academy
- OECD
- Metropolis
- UCLG Eurasia
- Greater Amman Municipality
- CDP
- GCoM
- EU4 Energy
- APLA
- Istanbul University Center for Urban Policy Research
- TUIK
- the Presidency of the Republic of Turkey
- UNDRR
- The Mayors Mechanism
- Mayors Migration Council (MMC)
- UN ESCWA
- Mersin Metropolitan Municipality
- Şanlıurfa Metropolitan Municipality
- Beylikdüzü Municipality
- Girne Municipality
- Sultanbeyli Municipality