

**Joint Statement of the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional  
Governments  
on the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2)**

**Doha, Qatar – November 2025**

We, local and regional governments, gather as pillars of democracy, peace and sustainability through public local services that ensure rights and make social justice tangible in our homes, neighbourhoods, and communities. Through our institutions and our daily practice, we shape global commitments into local realities.

We welcome the adoption of the *Doha Political Declaration* as a renewed expression of commitment to the social dimension of sustainable development. We call on member states to define a way forward, reaffirming equality, care, and dignity as the foundation of a renewed social contract. At stake in the WSSD2 is the chance to connect global ambition with local delivery, ensuring that the renewal of the social contract is rooted in territories and communities.

We stand for a renewed multilateralism built on global solidarity and strengthened through deeper engagement with local and regional governments. We call for the integration of local governments in the follow-up of the WSSD2 and the Commission for Social Development.

We commit to advancing this vision through:

- Promoting the Local Social Covenant as our shared framework for solidarity and co-responsibility, linking local action with global ambition.
- Affirming care as a feminist principle of governance — a public responsibility that places interdependence and well-being at the center of all decision-making.
- Standing for equality and against all forms of discrimination and racism — an ethical and political imperative to confront structural inequalities, defend human rights, and ensure that democracy protects every person and community.
- Ensuring that financing for social development explicitly includes subnational financing for public services, care, and housing, building on the Seville Commitment.
- Strengthening our alliances with civil society, social partners, women's and youth organizations, and other actors that strengthen our societies.
- Advancing youth participation as genuine power-sharing — a political necessity that ensures new generations co-create the policies, rights, and services that will define our shared future.

- Reclaiming housing as a universal right, not a market privilege — the cornerstone of equality, the entry point to public services, and the basis of inclusive cities and territories.
- Fostering food systems that end hunger and protect sovereignty — rooted in solidarity and sustainability, ensuring that food security is a guarantee, not a gamble.
- Affirming health as a public good — protected from commodification and secured through universal, community-based systems that uphold care, equity, and resilience.
- Recognizing culture as the backbone of belonging and peace — the living fabric of identity, creativity, and freedom that sustains democratic life.

Anchoring the principles of Action 55(E) of the Pact for the Future — which recognize our role in the UN system — in all implementation mechanisms, we call for a reformed global governance system that places territories at the decision-making table, acknowledging that cities, towns, and regions are where rights are realized, commons are protected, and democracy is renewed. As political representatives serving the sphere of government closest to the people and as part of the public institutional system, we plea for a distinct recognition in the multilateral system — as key democratic actors. Not merely implementers, but co-creators of global solutions.

As we uphold finance as the foundation of rights and trust, we champion and call for fiscal justice, direct access to resources, and a reformed financial architecture that empowers territories to sustain democracy and invest in dignity. We will keep working with multilateral institutions to ensure direct access to climate, development, and recovery funds for local and regional governments, enabling them to respond effectively to the needs of their communities.

The WSSD2 must stand as a stepping stone on the path toward a multilateralism that works for and with territories. Together with our partners, we stand ready to co-create a renewed global social contract built from the ground up, where equality, care, and trust are lived realities for all.

