

Geneva, July 13, 2020

Dear all,

The critical period we are experiencing now shows, once more, that local and regional authorities are in the frontline when a crisis strikes. More than that, local and regional authorities, all around the world, are proving that they are crucial actors when there is a need to face and respond to crises.

I would like also to underline the important role played by our global network and by all of you during this phase. We succeeded in showing how UCLG is relevant. Today, our voices are even stronger than before.

Solidarity is the backbone of our movement. UCLG is committing itself to help cities and territories hit by a sudden crisis enabling their members to join forces in solidarity. To meet this twin objective, UCLG has created a territorial crises prevention and management working group. The working group main ambitions are to provide a platform for local government disaster management to capitalize on lessons learned and to provide increasingly articulated technical support in crisis situations. We also aim to stress and to foster the crucial role of local governments on the international disaster management agenda.

In order to express even strongly a concrete solidarity from and among local and regional governments (LRGs) and to propose a specific help to LRGs in crisis, the working group created a new tool: **the international solidarity fund**.

We would like to invite you for a brainstorming meeting around two specific points that you will find with more details in the agenda attached. First, we would like to present and discuss with you the formal charter of the "UCLG international Solidarity Fund" tool. This document has been already shared and presented to you but we need your help to improve it and to share it in a second phase. Second, we would like to propose you the idea to have our annual seminar continuing our work to improve the coordination with other stakeholders, notably those that are involved in humanitarian affairs.

This meeting will take place virtually on **September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020, from 14:30 to 16:00 CEST**. Cités Unies France will provide the technical platform for this online meeting. Please confirm your presence to the secretariat: [s.giovetti@cites-unies-france.org](mailto:s.giovetti@cites-unies-france.org).

We really hope you will be able to join us for this meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Sami Kanaan  
Mayor of Geneva  
Chair, UCLG Working Group for territorial prevention and management of crises