

UCLG Peace Prize

Annual Update UCLG Peace Prize 2022



Background

The consequences of any violent conflict often manifest themselves on a local scale, which is why a local level approach is vital. Local governments have an important role to play in situations of conflict as promoters and facilitators of peace, freedom, democracy and prosperity and by doing so they contribute to the international development and peace-building agenda. Therefore, local governments are instrumental in preventing conflicts, building bridges and dialogue after conflict and promoting a peaceful environment. We want to highlight the role of local governments in promoting peace, dialogue and reconstruction throughout the world.

With this purpose comes the UCLG Peace Prize. The idea of creating a peace prize for local governments worldwide arose in 2008 in the framework of the first World Conference on City Diplomacy at the proposal of the UCLG Cities Diplomacy Commission chaired by the Association of Municipalities of the Netherlands (VNG). This is a triennial award and consists of € 20,000 that will be awarded to the winning local government with the objective of carrying out peace projects and facilitating the exchange of learning between local governments with similar challenges.

Supporting partners of the Peace Prize are the Dutch NGO PAX, the Municipality of The Hague, Vfonds, SALGA, UCLG and the VNG Fund for Emergency Relief, Reconstruction and Peacebuilding. The first edition of the prize has been awarded at the UCLG World Congress in Bogotá in 2016, and the second edition of the UCLG Peace Prize has been organised within the framework of the World Congress of UCLG in Durban in 2019. The third and last edition, was awarded in 2022 in South Korea, Daejeon, to the Municipality of Palmira.

Objectives for 2022

The year 2022 was marked by awarding the prize at the UCLG World Congress and generating international attention. All activities carried out this year have contributed to the general objectives:

1. To achieve (increased) recognition and visibility for the role of local governments in conflict prevention, peacebuilding, post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation
2. To foster and facilitate exchange and learning on innovative approaches by local governments in this field

Specifically, for 2022, the Peace Prize Secretariat had set the following additional objectives:

1. Broadening of the UCLG Peace Prize network, with specific attention to established organisations and network in the field of peace
2. Awarding the third edition of the Peace Prize at the UCLG World Congress in Daejeon, South Korea

3. Attracting new (financial) partners with a focus on partners from the Southern Hemisphere

Activities carried out in 2022

The year 2022 was marked by the awarding of the third edition of the UCLG Peace Prize. After the [launch event](#) which took place in December 2021, the applications for the third edition were collected, and shortlist was made by the technical evaluation committee after revising all applications from 23 different countries. Thereafter the jury decided on the five finalists in an online meeting in the first half of 2022 based on short documentaries which are financed by the Peace Prize. The five finalists of the 2022 edition of the UCLG Peace Prize were:

- [Mersin, Türkiye:](#) following a huge influx of refugees, the municipality launched a *Peace and Harmony Initiative* to build peace, increase awareness of co-existence, and prevent potential conflicts between the host community and refugees through e.g. intercultural learning and peace education.
- [Mishiha, Burundi:](#) through *Growing Peace Clubs* in schools, Mishiha aims at pursuing gradual and radical transformation of young people into responsible and trustworthy members of society, which will lay solid foundations for peace.
- [Monterrey, Mexico:](#) establishment of *Comprehensive Care Centres for Adolescents* with the aim to reduce youth recruitment by criminal groups. The centres help teenagers in dealing with trauma by offering psycho-social support and socio-productive workshops.
- [Palmira, Colombia:](#) by moving away from military approaches that have dominated Colombia's response to violence, Palmira introduced *PAZOS* (Peace and Opportunities), a strategy of comprehensive violence prevention, which prioritizes resources for youngsters who are the most susceptible to gang violence.
- [Recife, Brazil:](#) established community peace centers, *COMPAZ*, aim to promote citizenship, human rights and a culture of peace in the outskirts and slums of Recife. Beyond that, *COMPAZ* partners with the government to make sure citizens are guaranteed access to justice.

In the second half of the year the Jury decided upon the winner which was announced at the UCLG World Congress in Daejeon (see header 'Awarding the Prize in Daejeon, Korea for more information). After the congress, the Secretariat was focussed on providing international attention to the five finalists and drawing up their stories in different ways, but amongst others in the form of a publication.

In late 2021 a communication campaign has been organised for 2022 to promote the UCLG Peace Prize and collect new peace initiatives. This campaign had been orchestrated together with the launch of the 2022 UCLG Peace Prize, the launch can be viewed [here](#). The Secretariat has mobilised all its partners and connections to help promote the initiative. It has updated the website and contacted numerous organisations to inform them of this opportunity and ask them to help in spreading the word. The channels used in this campaign have been:

- UCLG: newsletters, circulars, website, social media, events, regional sections
- Social media: LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube
- International networks of local governments, humanitarian and peacebuilding organisations
- NGOs, civil society, institutes in the field of peace
- Networks of the Peace Prize partners
- Events with a large gathering of relevant actors
- Active outreach to potential applicants through desk research

Besides the search for applicants, the Secretariat has lobbied for other speaking opportunities in events to promote the theme of peacebuilding where possible. The focus has been on 'low-hanging fruit', events where peace prize partners or relevant connections are already present, or events with low travel costs, due to budgetary constraints.

Towards awarding the 2022 UCLG Peace Prize

- The call for applications has been published through an online live event.
- The jury has been recruited. More information on the members of the jury and their qualifications can be found through [this link](#). Guidelines for the jury and the criteria can be found on the Peace Prize [website](#).
- A technical assessment format and guidelines have been developed by the Secretariat.

Awarding the Prize in Daejeon, Korea

The prize has been awarded during the General Assembly at the UCLG World Congress in October 2022 in Daejeon, Korea. This World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders, convened by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), is the largest gathering of mayors, presidents of associations, councillors, and local and regional practitioners from around the world. It also gathers the most influential local and regional leaders, councillors, local governments, partners, and actors implicated in the decision making of city and community life. The General Assembly is the main event at the World Congress in which all (political) representatives are present. As a result the audience of the award ceremony of the Prize was very varied and included many high-level people (such as mayors and the presidency of the UCLG). A [special compilation video](#) was shown on the big screen which featured all peace initiatives of the five finalists. After the video Mayor of the Hague and co-president of UCLG, Jan Van Zanen, together with the president of SALGA, Bheke Stofile, awarded the prize to Mayor Oscar Escobar representing the Municipality of Palmira, Colombia.

During the congress, a session was organised in which the finalists presented their initiatives using the videos that have been produced. All finalists had the chance to present their project and answer panel questions.



Conclusion

The activities for the UCLG Peace Prize in 2022 have been implemented according to plan. We remain committed to collecting an ever growing amount of good practices from around the world and sharing these. We have sought synergies with stakeholders in the peacebuilding field to expand the scope of the award and expanded our network, and some first results of that are for instance that SALGA (South African Local Government Association) became a new partner of the Prize. This expands the reach of our initiative to stakeholders that have previously not been engaged. We aim to continue to expand our engagement with stakeholders in these and other networks to strengthen our initiative and find synergies with others.