



**UCLG
PEACE
PRIZE**

Co-financed by the Provincial
Council of Barcelona, with expertise
of PAX and VNG International

UCLG Peace Prize Work plan 2018-2020

PEACE PRIZE SECRETARIAT

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1. Background

In 2016, the first edition of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) Peace Prize took place at the UCLG World Congress in Bogotá. This award ceremony was the culmination of a long process of working towards achieving more recognition for the role of local governments in working towards peace.

The process started a decade ago, when partners, such as the Province of Barcelona, the Italian Network of Local Governments for Peace, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and VNG International, the international cooperation agency of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG) started to discuss the issue of City Diplomacy and the role of local governments in promoting dialogue and a culture of peace within UCLG. This resulted in the First World Conference on City Diplomacy in The Hague in 2008, organized by VNG International in the framework of the UCLG Committee on City Diplomacy. Among the recommendations of the adopted Hague Agenda on City Diplomacy was the proposal to launch an international peace prize for local governments who work to overcome conflicts in their own community.

Following the successful first edition of the UCLG Peace Prize in 2016, the present document entails a work plan (objectives, planning and activities) for the period 2018-2020, with the award ceremony of the second edition of the Prize at the UCLG World Congress in 2019.

Various organizations have already committed to supporting the second edition of the UCLG Peace Prize. A call for funding has been launched among UCLG members during the UCLG Executive Bureau meeting in April 2017, to ensure additional support and funding.

2. Objectives

The role of local governments worldwide in preventing and resolving conflicts remains underexposed, underestimated and unknown. While international attention for conflict situations is increasing, little attention is given to the local context of such conflicts. Focus is put on national or international measures needed to prevent and resolve conflicts, while local governments are usually at the roots of the conflict, and deal with the consequences directly and on a daily basis: local governments can address causes of the conflict, through education, culture and inclusion. They need to promote social cohesion and dialogue in their communities, in order to work towards peaceful coexistence. Furthermore, in a situation of conflict, local governments are confronted with refugee influxes and with the need to continue to deliver services and facilities amidst the chaos.



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Especially in fragile states, local government is usually the only visible form of government to citizens and the only government delivering public services. Even though the challenges and tension that local governments face in such areas are the consequences of broader conflicts that transcend the local situation, local governments can play an important role in stabilizing the situation and preventing escalation.

For all of the reasons named above, the UCLG Peace Prize was officially launched in 2015. The **main objectives** of the UCLG Peace Prize are the following:

1. To achieve (increased) recognition and visibility for the role of local governments in peacebuilding, reconstruction and resolution.
2. To foster and facilitate exchange and learning on innovative approaches in peacebuilding, conflict resolution and reconstruction

The **general scope for the Prize** is to reward innovative activities and initiatives that support conflict prevention, peace-building, post-conflict reconstruction and reconciliation.

The Prize is intended to relate to situations of actual or likely armed conflict, and is not intended to cover activities aimed at social inclusion alone. These situations may be in international conflicts or civil wars, but there will also be relevant situations where the armed conflict is (or was) of significant scale but where no formal state of war has been declared to exist.

While it is difficult to lay down a detailed definition of armed conflict, the Prize focuses on activities where:

- (a) There is an armed conflict in or close to the area of the initiative, whether or not formally recognized as a war situation, which is
 - more severe than short-term civil disorder or state of insecurity due (e.g.) to criminality, and
 - involves the actuality or threat of major loss of life or destruction of property (whether public or private), and/or the deliberate hostile targeting of places or items of cultural or religious heritage, and/or
 - leads to (or may lead to) significant population movements or disruption in consequence;
- (b) There is imminent and real danger of an armed conflict situation arising, as defined above; or
- (c) An armed conflict has taken place in the recent past where there is a need for post-conflict reconstruction and/or for steps towards practical reconciliation between peoples affected.

The UCLG Peace Prize is not an end in itself. The Prize has been created to support the further recognition of local governments' role in peacebuilding and in ensuring exchange and learning between local governments on this issue. Therefore, the activities laid down in this work plan are not only focused on organizing an award ceremony and handing out a prize, but rather have placed the Peace Prize as a central element in broader work programme of policy development, exposure and learning.

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3. Activities

Taking into account that the two main objectives are interrelated the following activities and deliverables can be identified towards and following the next UCLG Peace Prize edition in 2019.

3.1 Recognition and visibility

Connection to and recognition in international processes, agendas, events and media will be achieved through dissemination of good practices and general information about the Peace Prize in international gatherings either from the UCLG network, or from international / national stakeholders that are working on the theme of peacebuilding, resolution and reconstruction.

The following activities will be implemented:

3.1.1 International advocacy related to peacebuilding

3.1.1.1 General UCLG policy recommendations on the theme of peacebuilding

In order to ensure that there is a widely adopted UCLG position on the role of local governments in peacebuilding, the Peace Prize secretariat will prepare policy recommendations to be discussed in UCLG statutory meetings. These, once adopted, will guide further input in international processes and agendas.

It is foreseen that the first draft of the policy recommendations will be presented in the framework of the UCLG World Council in 2018 and will be put forward for adoption in 2019.

3.1.1.2 Best practices gathered through a global call for candidates for the UCLG Peace Prize

In 2016, a wealth of cases was submitted for the first edition of the Peace Prize. The 5 finalists have received (and continue to receive) international attention in meetings and gatherings.

3.1.1.3 Speaking opportunities in international events

In order to promote the role of local governments in peacebuilding, opportunities will be sought to feed into international meetings and processes. This will increase visibility for the Peace Prize, the partners of the Peace Prize and the cases that have been submitted.

3.1.1.4 Organizing an Award Ceremony

It is envisaged that the award ceremony of the second edition of the Peace Prize will take place during the UCLG world congress of 2019. During the award ceremony, a 20.000 € prize will be awarded to the winner, as well as a prize sculpture.



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The organization of the Award Ceremony entails a series of actions to be undertaken in advance, including:

- Launching a call for cases for the second edition of the Peace Prize from end of 2018 onwards
- Analyzing all applications to the Peace Prize to score whether applications are eligible and send list to Evaluation Committee
- Organizing a meeting of the Evaluation Committee to score the eligible cases
- Organizing a meeting of the Jury to define 5 shortlisted candidates
- Organizing a session in the UCLG World Congress to present the 5 shortlisted candidates
- Organizing a meeting of the Jury to identify the winning case
- Ensuring all logistics related to travel and presentation of the Jury and 5 shortlisted candidates to the UCLG World Congress

3.1.2 Defining a communication strategy to promote the UCLG Peace Prize, including:

A communication strategy to promote sending in applications for the second edition of the Peace Prize will be drafted by the secretariat of the Peace Prize.

3.1.2.1 Updated communication material (website, flyers, videos)

The final months of 2017 and beginning of 2018 will see an update of the UCLG Peace Prize website. All information concerning the second edition of the prize and how to get engaged in the process will be made available.

Furthermore, information, documentation and photo/video materials on the implementation of the “From Arms to Farms”-initiative of the municipality of Kauswagan (winner of the first edition of the Peace Prize) and the other finalists will be developed and made available, to showcase what has been done and achieved through the awarding of the Peace Prize.

The flyer, brochures and all other communication materials will be revised and updated, including names and logos of new partners, information on the first winner of the UCLG Peace Prize etc. These materials will be disseminated among various stakeholders (potential donors, partners, etc.) throughout the years.

From the end of 2018 onwards, submission of cases for nomination will be made possible by the Peace Prize secretariat through the Peace Prize website, which will also contain all documentation and information necessary for applications for the Peace Prize. It will also be possible to submit cases by email. Candidates will be asked to send in a bid of maximum five pages, for which an updated template will be shared. The deadline for applications is scheduled for April 2019.

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3.1.2.2 Media coverage on the UCLG Peace Prize

The secretariat of the Peace Prize will explore the options to further promote the shortlisted cases through international media. Furthermore, it is planned to use communication outings and visibility materials also for the purpose of learning (e.g. reporting and production of video materials, to be used at learning and exchange events).

3.1.2.3 Publication of the 5 most innovative and effective cases, to be published following the Award Ceremony

In 2020, after the Award Ceremony has taken place, the secretariat will take care of a publication which showcases the shortlisted cases and information about the award ceremony itself. This publication will also (further) feed the ongoing lobby and advocacy efforts of UCLG in this field.

3.2 Exchange and Learning

The following activities will contribute to learning and exchange in the field of peacebuilding, conflict resolution and reconstruction:

3.2.1 Online functioning platform

In order to facilitate exchange and learning about the cases selected and topics addressed by the UCLG Peace Prize, an online platform will be developed on the Peace Prize website. Within this community cases can be accessed, by theme or geographical scope. An interactive feature will allow interested parties to share news and to exchange online. The secretariat envisages organizing regular webinars, highlighting interesting features from submitted cases.

3.2.2 Learning event in the framework of the Award Ceremony

In the framework of the Award Ceremony and during the UCLG World Congress, a learning event will be organized for UCLG members and other interested stakeholders with presentations and exchanges on the most innovative cases.

3.2.3 Learning between finalists

As part of the prize, the winning local government and other shortlisted candidates that have been working in a similar context, will be given the opportunity to exchange what has worked and what has not, in order to improve their own practice, if possible through field visits. This will take place in 2020.

3.2.4 Series of learning events

Following the award ceremony and together with the Peace Prize partners, UCLG regions and UCLG learning agenda, opportunities will be identified in 2020 to promote the best practices in dedicated sessions back to back with existing meetings and conferences (UCLG and broader).

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4 Organizational procedures

4.1 Organizational bodies Peace Prize

The Peace Prize counts with an Advisory Body, an Evaluation Committee and a Jury. Terms of Reference for these bodies will be elaborated in the last quarter of 2017 and will be agreed upon by the partners of the Peace Prize and UCLG.

The **Advisory Body** is composed of all partners of the Prize and the UCLG World Secretariat (and possibly with other stakeholders) and regularly exchanges on the progress of the work. The Advisory Body proposes the process towards the awarding of the Peace Prize.

The **Evaluation Committee** is composed of a group of experts in the field of peacebuilding that will review the procedures of the Peace Prize, including the eligibility criteria, the scoring criteria and the application form and will do a revision of all received applications.

After the collection of applications, a first internal evaluation of nominees is scheduled for May 2019. The eligible applications will be shared with the Evaluation committee, which will meet in May-June 2019, to assess the submitted documents. They will define the longlist of cases that have been found both eligible and that have been scored against the criteria that have been agreed upon.

The **Jury** will be updated and where necessary other key persons in the field of peace building and conflict resolutions will be asked to join. It is recommendable to stick to a maximum of seven jury members, with diverse backgrounds and strong knowledge on local governments' activities in peace building and an international track record in this field. The Jury must be - and be seen to be - wholly independent, and therefore no current office-holder of UCLG will be a member of the Jury.

In the summer of 2019, the jury will receive the longlist of selected cases from the secretariat, as prepared by the evaluation committee, and an explanatory briefing prepared by the secretariat. Jury members will be asked to provide their first feedback and define the shortlist of five candidates.

Within the UCLG world congress in 2019, the five remaining candidates will present their cases to the jury, after which the jury will convene to evaluate the finalists' projects and presentations and identify the award winning initiative. The secretariat of the Peace Prize takes care of the logistical coordination of this jury meeting, both for the jury members and the candidates. The latter will also receive a briefing and (where necessary) assistance on how to present their cases.

4.2 Secretariat

The secretariat of the Peace Prize is based within the offices of VNG International in The Hague. The secretariat serves as the first point of contact for information or questions about all activities related to the Peace Prize. It is responsible for providing regular updates to the partners, the evaluation committee and the jury of the Peace Prize. The secretariat is responsible for the narrative and financial reporting on the implementation of all the activities related to the Prize.

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Two staff members (a (senior) project manager and a junior project manager) and an intern carry out the secretariats' tasks.

VNG International is the international cooperation agency of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities. Its mission is to strengthen democratic local government and decentralisation processes worldwide. With a staff of 50, VNG International continues to build on its strong track record in city diplomacy, peace building and reconstruction. VNG International has, amongst others, been actively involved in ensuring dialogue between Palestinian and Israeli municipalities through the Municipal Alliance for Peace; in peace processes related to agro-pastoral conflicts in South Sudan; in developing local government capacity in peacebuilding in the Great Lake region; in addressing root causes of fragility at the local level in Guatemala, and in enabling the functioning of local ombudsmen in conflict areas in Colombia. VNG International enjoys financial support from donors like the European Commission, the World Bank, and bilateral development agencies.

4.3 Funding

Following the successful first edition of the UCLG Peace Prize in 2016, VNG has set up a Foundation through which the following editions of the Peace Prize can be financed. An outreach campaign will be set up towards all UCLG members to acquire sufficient funding for a second edition, to be awarded in 2019. The aim is to sign long term financing agreements, for both the preparations, actual organisation of the UCLG Peace Prize and its follow up. The budget is enclosed.

PAX and the Barcelona Provincial Council have indicated that they aim to continue to support the Peace Prize. UCLG members have received a call for funding through documentation shared in the UCLG statutory affairs committee meeting and the Executive Bureau meeting in April 2017.

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Communication strategy of the UCLG Peace Prize

Goals

As stated in the Work Plan 2018-2020 the UCLG Peace Prize is not an end in itself, it is a tool to support further recognition of local governments' role in peacebuilding and in ensuring learning between local governments on this issue.

The related communication activities aim to contribute to those goals. They do however focus mostly on the Peace Prize related activities, as that is the momentum through which the goals can be achieved.

Target groups

Stemming from the goals of the Peace Prize, the target groups are therefore both local governments, as they are the ones that need to present their innovative cases, and on the other hand the international community, including national governments, multilateral institutions and donors, civil society and the general public.

Visual identity

- *Updating of visual identity*
Further to the first edition of the Peace Prize, both the logo and the visual identity of the Peace Prize will be updated, to reflect the reality in which new partners have come to the organization of the Peace Prize. This includes updating the logo of the Peace Prize.

Materials to be published

- *Peace Prize flyer*
A general flyer to promote the Peace Prize will be developed in English, French and Spanish. It will be spread to all UCLG regional sections, to the Peace Prize partners, and to related organizations that can reach the target group of the Peace Prize.
- *Peace Prize promotion video*
For general promotion purposes, a short promotion video will be developed. This is used to announce the Peace Prize and will be used in international meetings and online for further promotion.
- *Publication of policy recommendations on the role of local government in peacebuilding*
The Peace Prize secretariat will develop a proposal of a set of policy recommendations to be debated within the various UCLG statutory bodies. Once approved, they will be published and used in international gatherings of national governments and international organizations, to advocate for further recognition of the role of local governments.



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- *Publication of the 5 most innovative and effective cases*
Further to the award ceremony, in 2020 a publication of the 5 selected finalists will be developed. This publication will also contain further articles on the role of local governments in peacebuilding and conflict prevention.
- *Videos of the Peace Prize award ceremony and of several of the cases*
To further promote the innovative cases and the Peace Prize itself, videos will be developed and both displayed in international meetings and online.

Platform

- *UCLG Peace Prize website*
For general information and promotion and the way through which applications can be processed, the existing website www.peaceprize.uclg.org will be updated and improved.
- *Online exchange and learning platform*
As a new feature of the website, a more restricted platform will be added. This platform enables exchange of cases and allows member of the community to exchange with each other of features of policy that work and why.
- *Functionality for webinars*
In order to capture the lessons highlighted on the platform and in the cases that have been submitted, webinars will be organized, both for local governments and for other interested organizations, to learn from innovative cases and aspects of peacebuilding, prevention and resolution.

Media coverage

- *Continuous promotion*
Through all media at our disposal, we will continuously ask attention for the UCLG Peace Prize. This will be done through our website (both the dedicated UCLG Peace Prize website, as the general UCLG website), twitter, contributions to newsletters and websites of partners, through networks of UCLG and partners and reaching out to related organizations.
In particular during the application period we will call on local governments to submit their cases. After the Award Ceremony we will generate visibility for the winning case, for the other finalists and for any learning activities that will follow.
- *Press releases*
We will be releasing press releases at various moments, in particular: the opening of the application period and the Award Ceremony.

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First edition of the UCLG Peace Prize

The first edition of the UCLG Peace Prize – named UCLG City of Bogotá Peace Prize - was awarded to the municipality of Kauswagan (The Philippines) during the 5th UCLG Congress and World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders in Bogotá, Colombia, in October 2016. With over 3,500 delegates from local, regional and national governments, the private sector, civil society, academia and the international community, the event was the perfect stage for the award ceremony of first edition of the peace prize. Jury members and finalists travelled from all over the world to Bogotá for this event, showcasing inspiring initiatives and rewarding the top contender. The publication that has been developed to highlight the finalists' projects and emphasize the role of local governments in conflict resolution and peacebuilding can be accessed [here](#).

The shortlisted contenders of the first edition:

- Canoas, Brazil: in Canoas, local authorities have designated *Peace Territories* in which they combine initiatives in technology, social inclusion and community policing to address causes of violence.
- Cali, Colombia: the *Think About Peace* programme comprises workshops for children and parents while training community mediators and social workers to promote peace in the community.
- Palmira, Colombia: through the *Palmira, tu Voz es Paz* urban music competition local authorities raise young people's awareness of the importance of living together peacefully.
- Shabunda, Democratic Republic of Congo: in this remote area, *Permanent Peace Committees* have been created to establish peace, restore government authority, reintegrate members of a local militia into the community and end the area's isolation.
- Kauswagan, the Philippines (winner of the first edition): the *From Arms to Farms* programme is a comprehensive approach to demobilization and reintegration of former rebel fighters, engaging them in organic farming.

List of Jury members of the first edition

1. Mr. Wim Deetman, Former mayor The Hague, former chair of the UCLG Committee on City Diplomacy
2. Mr. Tarik Kupusović, former Mayor of Sarajevo
3. Mr. Rafael Grasa, Former President of the International Catalan Institute for Peace
4. Ms. Aisa Kirabo, Deputy Director of UN Habitat, Former Mayor of Kigali
5. Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, former Joint Special Representative of the UN and the Arab League in Syria, former UN Special Envoy in Iraq, former UN Special Representative in Afghanistan
6. Mr. Tadatoshi Akiba, former Mayor of Hiroshima (and thus q.q. also former president of Mayors for Peace)
7. Ms. Janny Vlietstra, Former Senator in the Netherlands, former Vice-President of the Platform Municipal Peace Policy

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