

Press release
5th of October 2016

The regions call for recognition in Habitat III

- **ORU Fogar promotes the regional governments' own positioning in the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development**
- **The regions claim that migration from rural to urban areas can only be prevented through a balanced territory having adequate infrastructures and services**

With the intention of bringing the voice of intermediate governments to the **Habitat III** Conference, which will take place from the 17th to the 20th of October in Quito, Ecuador, the **United Regions Organisation (ORU Fogar)** Fogar has promoted the adoption of the paper "[Regional Governments in Habitat III](#)", a territorial positioning which tackles topics such as the New Urban Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals or the 2030 Agenda. The initiative, which will be adopted and presented during the UN-Habitat meeting, emerges from the need to demonstrate that regions also have a fundamental role in addressing sustainable development challenges; consequently, they deserve to be heard in this international debate which has a mainly urban approach.

ORU Fogar's position paper claims that, in an increasingly globalised world, the debate on sustainable urban development also encompasses the non-urban domain: "Today the urban world must take into consideration the territory where it is built, it feeds and it develops.. [...] Regions, as intermediate territorial units between the central and the local power, offer the adequate dimension to define efficient and smart strategies to ensure balanced, inclusive and sustainable development". The text argues that cities are inescapably associated with a territorial system – productive, alimentary, infrastructures, etc.- which goes beyond their urban demarcation. In the words of ORU Fogar's President, Paúl Carrasco, "cities need the territory to be sustainable" and the government of reference is the regional government.

In this sense, the paper claims that regions play a key role in the New Urban Agenda. The text also raises the commitments that intermediate governments need to make towards the cities, like ensuring that the infrastructures and equipment provide structure to the whole territory, in a balance including from large cities to small rural villages, or like taking measures to compensate the differences and overcome the rural-urban division.

The position document will be submitted for approval to **ORU Fogar's General Assembly**, which will meet on the 16th October in Quito, within the framework of Habitat III, hosted by the Consortium of Ecuadorian Provincial Governments ([CONGOPE](#)). After the adoption of the document, it will be officially presented in a press conference in the site of the Habitat III Exposition, in the stand of the Catalan Government. The event will take place on the 17th October at 13 h with the presence of authorities from ORU Fogar, the Catalan Government, the *Diputació de Barcelona* and CONGOPE.



Open to the public upon registration, all intermediate governments and regional network worldwide are invited to **ORU Fogar's General Assembly**. Registration is now open at <https://orugeneralassembly-quito2016.eventbrite.es>

About ORU Fogar

The United Regions Organisation / Global Forum of Regional Associations ([ORU Fogar](#)) brings together regions from all over the world and being their voice before the international organizations, promoting a global policy of balanced development and territorial cohesion. Its main objective is to seek the intermediate governments' recognition as major players in the global governance. It defends that the decentralization of the national states' power towards other actors accelerates development; consequently fostering democracy by the proximity between these new actors and the citizens. ORU Fogar promotes a model based on a strong regional government, with capabilities and legally recognized powers and budgets. The organisation has regional governments and regional networks from all five continents as members.

For further information:

Position paper "**Regional governments in Habitat III. ORU Fogar's position:**

<http://www.regionsunies-fogar.org/images/Documentos/posicionamiento-habitat3-en.pdf>

Press call for the official presentation of **ORU Fogar's positioning:**

http://www.regionsunies-fogar.org/images/Documentos/Convo_ORU_PresentacinPosicionamientoRegionesHabitat3_ENG.pdf

Social networks:

To follow the event's preparation and development:

[@ORUFOGAR](#) / [@ORU_esp](#) / [@ORU_fr](#)

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<https://www.facebook.com/ORUFOGAR>

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