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CONCEPT NOTE OF THE 5TH WORLD FORUM OF CITIES AND TERRITORIES OF PEACE
PARTICIPATORY MANAGEMENT FOR COEXISTENCE AND PEACE
May 2nd & 3rd, 2025

I.   What is the World Forum of Cities and Territories of Peace?

The World Forum of Cities and Territories of Peace (WFCTP) is conceived as a multi-level, multi-stakeholder convening. Its purpose is to facilitate a shared space for dialogue and critical reflection on the development of local public policies aimed at fostering peaceful urban environments capable of addressing manifestations of violence and promoting citizen coexistence. The Forum acknowledges that social, economic, and political structures significantly shape urban environments and advocates for the synergistic alignment of public policies related to human rights, gender equality, sustainable development, peace, security, and justice.

The WFCTP serves as a nexus, converging various international dialogues and initiatives focusing on peace and urban violence. It highlights the efforts of subnational governments in establishing initiatives that promote peace and coexistence within their jurisdictions. The Forum builds upon the contributions and insights generated through prior dialogues, including: Municipal Dialogues for Peace; the Hague Charter on Municipal Peace; the CGLU Peace Prize and Local Social Pact; the Mercociudades Cities' Commitment to Care; the Latin American and Caribbean Coalition of Cities against Racism, Discrimination, and Xenophobia (Coalición LAC); the IX Conference of the EU-LAC Decentralized Cooperation Observatory; the "Governance for Human Rights, Peace, Security, and Political Process" section of the Pact for the Future; and the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission, and the Urban Agenda for Peace and Non-Violence.

Furthermore, the FMCTP informs and is informed by subsequent processes, such as: the United Nations High-Level Political Forum; the International Observatory of Participatory Democracy (OIDP) Conference; the World Council and CGLU Congress in 2026. The Forum's framework is grounded in the recognition of global development agendas, particularly the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizing the crucial role of urban spaces in constructing peaceful, inclusive, and resilient societies.

II.   What is the 5th WFCTP aimed at?

The first four WFCTP established that building a social and institutional framework conducive to peace, coexistence, and human security requires a multi-actor approach extending beyond local administrations.

Consequently, the 5th WFCTP convenes diverse stakeholders—including local, regional, national, and international actors from the public and private sectors, civil society, community organizations, academia, and international organizations—to foster a comprehensive understanding of the issues and generate policy recommendations.

III.   How does Montevideo contribute to the FMCTP process?

Montevideo offers globally innovative approaches to local public governance, characterized by robust social cohesion fostered through participatory governance models. This approach is deeply embedded within its political and social fabric.

The city's policies are built upon principles of social participation, management excellence, equitable wealth distribution, environmental protection, and inclusive social policies. This commitment underpins Montevideo's contribution to fostering peace and coexistence, effectively addressing diverse urban violence challenges.

Montevideo directly confronts the complexities of 21st-century urban challenges. While acknowledging substantial progress, the city remains cognizant of persistent inequalities and the impending impact of climate change. Building upon the insights gleaned from previous WFCTPs, Montevideo offers fresh perspectives on the conditions necessary to accelerate advancements towards peace, coexistence, and effective violence mitigation within urban environments.

Montevideo's deeply ingrained tradition of citizen participation and consensus-building provides valuable insights into the enabling factors essential for translating prior Forum discussions into concrete action. Consequently, the central theme for this 5th WFCTP is PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE FOR COEXISTENCE AND PEACE.

IV.   What is the conceptual focus of the 5th WFCTP?

The 5th WFCTP addresses the multifaceted nature of conflict and violence, emphasizing a human rights-based approach throughout. It promotes the establishment of cultures of peace through the collaborative efforts of subnational governments, incorporating social justice and care-oriented policies. The vision is to construct cohesive, inclusive, and sustainable cities that foster quality employment and robust democratic governance, characterized by transparency and accountability.

Violence prevention is paramount, coupled with comprehensive care policies designed to mitigate and prevent violence. The often-overlooked gendered aspects of care work, disproportionately borne by women, demand attention. Addressing conflict before it escalates into violence is crucial for building peaceful urban communities. Finally, restorative justice mechanisms for victims are integral to the healing process and fostering durable coexistence.

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Achieving these goals requires collaborative efforts between citizens and local authorities. This necessitates facilitating citizen mobilization and organization to participate actively in the development and implementation of public policies and political programs designed to mitigate the escalation of diverse urban conflicts into violence.

V.   What are the axes of the 5th WFCTP?

The agenda of the 5th WFCTP aims to articulate the conversations, from relevant cases in participatory management for coexistence and peace, around **six thematic axes** and **three transversal axes.**

THEMES			
1 Intolerance, racism, discrimination and extremism	**2** Migration, diaspora and violence	**3** Gender-based in violence	**4** Inequalities, inclusive development and climate justice
TRANSVERSAL AXIS			
A. Citizen participation and intergenerational dialogue			
B. Resources for participatory management for coexistence and peace			
C. City diplomacy and strategic articulations			

▪ **Themes:** They represent the four central topics of discussion and analysis at the forum. Each of these topics is broken down into specific aspects that allow for a deeper understanding of their causes, effects, and possible solutions.

THEMES	
1. **Intolerance, racism, discrimination and extremism**	Social and political polarization, amplified by inequality and unequal access to digital media and literacy, is a significant driver of the global rise in hate speech, community conflict, radicalization, and terrorism. Cities, as hubs of opportunity for populations structurally excluded by poverty and inequality, become primary sites for the manifestation of the following trends: ● Ethnic conflicts, xenophobia and racial aggressions. ● Attacks to diversity in its multiple expressions. ● Development of narratives of discrimination; and ● Digital and political violence's.
2. **Migration, diaspora and violence**	The global increase in human mobility presents a complex and multifaceted phenomenon, requiring a multi-perspectival analysis to fully understand its implications for territories: ● Violence as a cause of migration and diaspora: refugees and displaced persons; political or ethnic persecution.

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	• Violence during displacement: human trafficking; violence on migratory routes; discrimination and xenophobia. • Migrations and population movements due to climate change. • Violence in destination cities: social and economic exclusion; community violence; discrimination and xenophobia.
3. Gender-based violence	Women and members of the LGBTQ+ community experience expressions of violence in urban contexts daily. The problem will be addressed from the following dimensions: • Programs with a focus on care that help prevent and respond to the various manifestations of gender-based aggression. • Initiatives to respond to street harassment, sexual violence, domestic violence, femicides, digital violence, trafficking and sexual exploitation. • Expressions and responses to political violence against women, as a form of gender-based violence, which seeks to hinder, limit or suppress women's participation and leadership in decision-making spaces, both in the public and private spheres.
4. Inequalities, inclusive development and climate justice	This section analyzes the correlation between urban violence and the socioeconomic inequalities and territorial segregation stemming from development patterns that prioritize economic growth over the needs of vulnerable communities that traditionally inhabit the territory. such as tourism and its impact on social cohesion or access to housing. The challenges posed by the climate crisis in the form of ecosocial tensions and the need for environmental sustainability that aligns with the rights of communities will also be addressed. Specifically, it addresses urban violence and crime from the perspectives of: • Inequalities and intergenerational gaps, and youth armed violence in vulnerable areas. • Restrictions on the right to housing, gentrification, and tensions between tourists and local citizens. • The expansion of criminal organizations around sex tourism, including child exploitation. • Environmental degradation as a factor of violence: competition for resources, the impact of climate change, pollution, and health issues. • Environmental violence: land and resource dispossession, and conflicts over land use.

▪ **Transversal axis:** Montevideo's significant contribution to the WFCTP process is its focus on analyzing the **conditions that underpin both the successes and challenges of peacebuilding initiatives** presented during the Forum. The program's discussions and activities will emphasize practical tools and capacity-building for conflict prevention and transformation, and violence reduction. Three core thematic axes will guide this process: (a) citizen participation as an exercise of political power; (b) resources for participatory governance promoting coexistence and peace;

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and (c) strategic articulations through city diplomacy and multi-stakeholder, multi-level collaborations.

TRANSVERSAL AXIS

A. Citizen participation as an exercise of political power

Leadership and innovation. How do local governments effectively engage with communities to prevent and manage violence and promote peaceful coexistence? What innovative interventions can effectively address challenges to peace and coexistence while mitigating political risks for local leaders?

Negotiation. How do specific narrative frames and attitudes shape the interactions between communities and local governments, and what configurations are most conducive to successful collaboration on issues of coexistence? In contexts as polarized as the current ones, what conversations and interactions can be employed by local governments and communities, to effectively address the challenges to coexistence and expressions of violence?

Co-management with communities of neighborhood, neighborhood, social and environmental conflicts. What factors are essential to fostering constructive collaboration between communities and local governments in addressing localized conflicts? What communication and participatory mechanisms maximize community contributions to local conflict resolution in the territory? How can effective local peace and coexistence agendas be developed?

Intergenerational dialogue. How can the voices of young people be linked, in a meaningful way, to the decision-making processes to make an impact on peace and coexistence? What types of conversations should take place between young people and those responsible for public policies that prevent or confront violence in the territories and what spaces are the ideal scenarios for this?

B. Resources for participatory governance for coexistence and peace

Co-management with the communities of local public budgets. What types of investments promote peace and coexistence, and are best suited for allocation through participatory budgeting or similar participatory mechanisms?

Financing. What barriers impede effective resource allocation for urban peacebuilding and coexistence initiatives at the local government level? How are budgetary priorities for peacebuilding/coexistence balanced against those for security and conflict resolution? How do international development banks incorporate peace, coexistence, and urban violence into their urban investment strategies?

Technology. How do cities reconcile human rights concerns with the use of technology in crime and violence prevention and control? How can fragmented legal jurisdictions be overcome to effectively integrate technological and human approaches to urban security?

Communication. How do media and social networks shape public perceptions of peace and violence in urban settings? What factors influence the willingness and capacity of independent media/social media actors to collaborate with local governments on peacebuilding initiatives?

Urban interventions. How can policy frameworks be designed to effectively prioritize infrastructure investments that promote coexistence and citizen engagement in public spaces?

International cooperation. What is the extent to which international cooperation actors prioritize non-reimbursable financial resources for urban peacebuilding and initiatives promoting social cohesion?

C. City diplomacy and strategic articulations

Multi-level management of security and justice. What specific obstacles—legal, political, or administrative—hinder effective collaboration among local, national/federal, and judicial entities in delivering security and justice services? What institutional mechanisms and policy frameworks are most effective in fostering fluid intergovernmental coordination for the delivery of security and justice services?

Multi-stakeholder management to advance the peace and coexistence agendas. What strategies are most effective for fostering collaboration between local governments, the private sector, and civil society to promote peace, coexistence, and address urban violence? What governance structures and mechanisms are most conducive to effective collaboration between local governments, private sector actors, and civil society in peacebuilding initiatives?

Multilateral management of local governments. What is the contribution of inter-city cooperation, within the framework of the global municipalist movement, to collective action promoting global peace and security in the context of contemporary geopolitical shifts? What specific mechanisms or initiatives emerging from the September 2024 Summit of the Future are expected to enhance global governance for peace?

VI. How will the various spaces of the 5th FMCTP program be structured?

Plenary Sessions	**Format:** Two (2) plenary sessions will be held. In the opening plenary, representatives from the various organizing institutions of the FMCTP will share their key perspectives on human rights as a foundation for coexistence, peace, and conflict prevention. In the closing plenary, the forum's conclusions will be presented, focusing on the development of a local public agenda for peace and coexistence. **Duration:** 30 minutes
Conferences	**Format:** In-depth dialogue spaces aimed at addressing the forum's cross-cutting themes. Each conference will feature a maximum of three participants**.** **Duration:** 45 minutes
Thematic Panels	**Format:** These sessions will consist of four (4) discussions, each featuring a maximum of five experts and a moderator, providing a technical approach to the thematic axes defined in the program. **Duration:** 60 minutes.
Workshops on Experiences and Learnings	**Format:** These sessions will feature multi-actor exchanges highlighting innovative learnings related to the forum's thematic axes. They will follow an interactive methodology, engaging participants to enrich the discussion. Digital tools will be

used to interact with the audience, and space will be provided for questions and answers.
Duration: 90 minutes.

Side Events	**Format:** As part of the participatory development of the program, spaces will be provided for FMCTP partners to present their own content aligned with the themes of this edition of the Forum. **Duration:** 90 minutes.
City Projects Visits	**Format:** The Montevideo City Government will offer participants immersive experiences, allowing them to visit and witness firsthand programs that exemplify participatory management of peace and coexistence. These visits will highlight the crucial role communities play in the development of these initiatives. **Duration:** 90 minutes

VII.   What results are expected from the 5th WFCTP?

The 5th WFCTP seeks to generate the following results:

- **Montevideo Declaration**. This declaration will serve as a call to action, underscoring participants' commitment to local peace and coexistence while advocating a shift from reflection to the implementation of participatory governance for peace and coexistence. This collaborative approach emphasizes shared responsibility in addressing the Forum's agenda and will contribute to the policy discussions at the VIII UCLG World Congress in 2026.

- **Public agenda for the construction of peace and coexistence.** By analyzing the conditions that shape both problems and solutions, the Forum will generate findings readily transferable to other contexts. This analytical approach will provide a set of tools to facilitate the adaptation, scaling, and replication of effective strategies.

- **Multi-stakeholder and multi-level strategies and alliances**. The resulting collaborations will facilitate the implementation of integrated solutions for peacebuilding and social cohesion.

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