



Urban Agenda for Peace and Nonviolence: A Process for Constructing and Localizing Public Peace Policies

Concept Note

Allied Partners' Side Session of the 5th Forum of Cities and Territories of Peace

Montevideo – May 2,

The ongoing urbanization process has created increasingly complex environments where high levels of violence, inequality, discrimination, and lack of opportunities coexist. This reality exposes a fundamental dichotomy in cities: on one hand, the risk of visible manifestations of violence, and on the other, the potential to transform these spaces into environments of peace, democracy, and holistic well-being.

In this context, the Urban Agenda for Peace and Nonviolence project—driven by the PHARE Global Territories Association, in collaboration with the Presidential Agency for International Cooperation of Colombia (APC Colombia) and supported by eLankidetzta, the Basque Agency for Cooperation and Solidarity—emerges as a comprehensive initiative aimed at countering the multiple forms of violence in cities through a holistic strategy.

The project seeks to define an agenda model that is applicable in Colombia, other Latin American contexts, and regions across the globe. In its first phase, the project designed a model Urban Agenda for Peace and Nonviolence. In the second phase, a pilot project was implemented, allowing the model to be contextualized in a specific territory. In the third phase, the lessons learned are systematized to produce a guide that facilitates the localization and replicability of the agenda in diverse urban contexts around the world.

As part of this strategy, Buenaventura (Colombia) was selected as the pilot city—not only because of its profound social challenges and strategic importance as a seaport, but also due to its immense peacebuilding potential and its rich heritage of community-led initiatives aimed at fostering coexistence. To localize the project in Buenaventura, a diagnostic process, stakeholder mapping, and participatory co-creation spaces were carried out to develop a public policy on Human Rights, Peace, and Nonviolence. This policy integrates the perspectives of diverse local actors and serves as a reference for transforming the social fabric and improving coexistence in highly vulnerable environments.

Additionally, Santiago de Cali (Colombia) has joined the initiative and developed its own peace policy based on the Urban Agenda for Peace model.

These advances will be presented during the 5th World Forum of Cities and Territories of Peace, an international platform for dialogue where local governments, civil society, and international organizations discuss the challenges of urban violence and develop collective solutions. This forum represents a key opportunity to connect initiatives like the Urban Agenda for Peace with global





processes, fostering the exchange of experiences and the coordination of public policies aimed at building safer, more inclusive, and resilient urban environments.

It is worth noting that the Forum will inform other post-forum processes such as the United Nations High-Level Political Forum, the Conference of the International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (OIDP), the World Council, and the 2026 UCLG Congress.

Objectives of the Session:

- **Disseminate Results:** Present the progress and lessons learned throughout the three phases of the Urban Agenda for Peace project.
- **Share the Localization Process in Buenaventura:** Explain the participatory process carried out in Buenaventura for the development of the public policy on Peace and Nonviolence, highlighting the methodology based on workshops, working groups, and community dialogues.
- **Present Key Messages for Localizing the Urban Agenda for Peace:** Share the main ideas and recommendations for localizing the Urban Agenda for Peace, emphasizing its potential replicability in other urban contexts around the world.
- **Promote Dialogue and Strategic Partnerships:** Create a space for open exchange and debate among all participants to strengthen strategic alliances in the construction of safe, inclusive, and sustainable cities.

Session Format:

The session will last 90 minutes and will be structured as follows:

Session Agenda	
15:00 – 15:20	Welcome and presentation of the Urban Agenda for Peace and Nonviolence project: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Eleonora Betancur, General Director of APC Colombia- Representative of eLankidetzta – Basque Agency for Cooperation and Solidarity- Felipe Llamas, President of PHARE Global Territories
15:20 - 15:45	The public peace policy in Buenaventura: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ligia del Carmen Córdoba, Mayor of Buenaventura- Karolina Guerrero, Secretary of Peace of Buenaventura
15:45 – 16:25	Open debate: Key messages for localizing the Urban Agenda for Peace and building strategic partnerships for peace and coexistence <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Representative of PHARE Global Territories● Representative of Santiago de Cali City Hall● Representative of Bilbao● Representative of Montevideo● Representative of VNG (UCLG Peace Prize Winner)● Representative of the Government of Catalonia● Other participants Moderated by Maider Maraña, Director of the Baketik Foundation
16:25 – 16:30	Conclusions and closing of the session <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Jhonnatan Gamboa, Chief of Staff, APC Colombia

This agenda is subject to change pending confirmation of the speakers.

