



The process of the VI World Forum on Local Economic Development began in Seville with the holding of two preparatory sessions on October 18 and 19

Political and institutional representatives, experts, technical staff from administrations, civil society, academia and the private sector met in Seville on October 18 and 19, inaugurating a new space and process of co-creation and co-decision towards the sixth edition of the World Forum on Local Economic Development to be held in Seville (Andalusia, Spain).

Under the title "**Partnerships for a just, inclusive and sustainable transition and promoting social justice**", this meeting was organized by the Andalusian Fund of Municipalities for International Solidarity (**FAMSI**), the UCLG Committee on Local Economic and Social Development (**UCLG DEL**) and the International Labour Organization (**ILO**). Among others, the main objective has been to reflect on a process of just transition from the action of partnerships between local governments and international cooperation and to start the first exchanges to establish a roadmap for the VI edition of the forum.

In the words of **José Luis García Martín**, Eighth Deputy Mayor of the City of Seville, at the opening of the event: "The World Forum for Local Economic Development is a crucial commitment to achieve social justice, equality and decent employment, strengthening partnerships between local governments and international cooperation".

Although the date will be officially announced soon, depending on the international agenda, it is confirmed that the **6th WFLED** will return to **Seville**, where the 1st World Forum of Local Economic Development Agencies was held. The two days of participatory work served to discuss the agenda and global context and the differential role of WFLED, renew alliances and partnerships, share thematic priorities and define a common roadmap, enhancing the territory and the process of knowledge management.

With more than a decade of experience in cities such as Seville (Spain), Foz do Iguaçu (Brazil), Turin (Italy), Praia (Cape Verde), Cordoba (Argentina), in the words



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of **Francisco Tojas Mellado**, Deputy for Cooperation of the Seville Provincial Council and President of the UCLG Committee on Local Economic and Social Development: "This forum has always focused on the key role of local governments in local economic development and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda from the construction of public policies".

For **Pierre Martinot-Lagarde**, Advisor for Special Partnerships at the International Labor Organization (ILO) in Geneva, there are several aspects that should be considered in the process towards the sixth edition, among them the achievement of "dignity" and "peace" and "decent work", listening first and foremost to "the voice of the workers".

From her point of view, **Rocío Moreno Domínguez**, member of the Board of Directors of FAMSI and 4th Vice President of the Huelva Provincial Council, during the inauguration highlighted the importance of the union between different local actors and the coordinated and cooperative work to achieve common goals.

The meeting was also attended by representatives of United Cities and Local Governments (**UCLG**), the United Regions Organization (**ORU FOGAR**), the Global Fund for Cities Development (**FMDV**), the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (**CLGF**), the Global Social Economy Forum (**GSEF**), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (**OECD**), the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (**AECID**), and the **Seville Provincial Council**.

Other key actors such as the **European Commission**, the **Basque Government** (co-promoter of the Local2030 Coalition Office in Bilbao), the **International Development Cooperation Agencies of Andalusia and the Basque Country**, the City of **Bordeaux**, **UGT Andalusia**, the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South East Europe (**NALAS**); the Latin American and Caribbean Federation of Associations of Municipalities (FLACMA) **and the mayors Mohamed Sefiani** (Chefchaouen, Morocco), president of the UCLG Forum of Intermediate Cities and **Didier Bikoula Bekono** (Olanguina, Cameroon), as well as political and technical representatives of 15 municipalities and Andalusian councils members of FAMSI.



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The conference, part of the process of the sixth edition of the forum, was also nourished by various dialogues and debates on partnerships and territorial policies, multi-stakeholder and multilevel international cooperation and decent jobs in a new green economy. In the face of an increasingly uncertain economic system, it was concluded, among other issues, that there is an urgent need to structurally reformulate partnerships and financing models in development cooperation; to improve knowledge management and best practices; and to continue to give a voice to all actors and levels of government.

The last part of the meeting also gave a no less important space to territorial experiences for a just, inclusive and sustainable transition focused on Sustainable Development Goal 8. Local and regional initiatives in Kyrgyzstan, Egypt, Turkey, Morocco-Andalusia and municipalities of Bosnia and Cameroon, showed their local and regional projects to boost economic growth and employment in the new productive and consumption dynamics more sustainable.