



South African Local Government Association (SALGA) Cllr Bheke Stofile takes on the role of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) Co-President.

On Friday, 14 October 2022, South African Local Government Association (SALGA) President Cllr. Bheke Stofile was elected as one of 5 Co-Presidents of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).

Cllr. Stofile's election to serve on the umbrella international organisation for cities, local and regional governments, and municipal associations throughout the world, took place at its 2022 7th World Congress and Summit of Local and Regional Leaders in Daejeon, South Korea.

The gathering, which took place from 10-14 October 2022, was attended by about 6000 representatives from 576 cities in 145 countries under the motto "Local and Regional Governments Breaking Through as One", bringing the local leadership and international actors together to meet a scenario of breakthrough.

SALGA congratulates Cllr Stofile for being recognised for his strong leadership characteristics which will enhance and support the UCLG's mission and values.

The congress also elected Carolina Cosse, Mayor of Montevideo, to take on the role of governing President of UCLG. The new rotating Presidency of UCLG is composed of:

- Carolina Cosse, Mayor of Montevideo
- Ugur Ibrahim Altay, Mayor of Konya
- Jan Van Zanen, Mayor of The Hague
- Lee Jang-Woo, Mayor of Daejeon

The new Co-Presidency of UCLG is composed of:

- Bheke Stofile, SALGA President
- Li Mongyuan, Mayor Xi'an, ASPAC
- Kulginov Altay, Mayor of Astana, EURASIA
- Berry Vrbanovic, Mayor of Kitchener, NORAM
- Johnny Araya, Mayor of San Jose, LATAM

The UCLG is a global network of cities and metropolitan governments, committed to representing the voices of local municipalities. With 240,000 local governments from 140 countries as members, it is the world's largest organisation of regional governments and the only such organisation recognised by the United Nations

SALGA is not new to taking up leadership seats at the UCLG. In 2016, former SALGA President and Johannesburg Mayor Parks Tau, was elected to serve as the President of UCLG and in 2019 and 2020, Tau's successor at SALGA, Thembisile Nkadameng was elected Co-President of UCLG and Chair of the Commonwealth Women in Local Government network (ComWLG) respectively. Ms Nkadameng is still the incumbent in the latter position.

Congratulations once again to Cllr Stofile and the newly elected UCLG leadership. Cities, local governments and municipal associations throughout the world have received another collective of selfless leaders who will prioritize their needs and expectations.