



**UCLG Committee
on Social Inclusion,
Participatory Democracy
and Human Rights**

**Speech of Patrick Braouezec, Co-President of the CSIPDHR and President of Plaine Commune, at
the Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments**

Quito, November 2016

Thank you to the Mayor of Quito for his welcome and to all those that have contributed to the work gathering us today.

Common good, solidary metropolitan areas, social inclusion, gender equality, citizen participation, “right to the city”... Yes, we, local elected officials, aspire to make our territories spaces for individual and collective realization, urban and human places contributing to drive back social and territorial inequalities and to generate a new, environmental respectful type of development.

There cannot be other policy priorities but the wellbeing, the “good-living” of all our inhabitants, without exception, regardless of their origin, their age, their economic situation or their administrative status.

At these times when inequalities, segregations, wars and exodus are advancing; when the 1% of population possesses as much as half of the world’s population; when the future of our planet is at stake; when competitiveness and commodification logics are invading public spaces, urban services, housing, education and culture... At these times, we need to act.

The cities are their women, men and young people with their joys, their sufferings, their aspirations and their dreams. They are our only capital.

To give responses to these women, these men and these young people we need to broaden decentralization, to transform democracy and to facilitate citizens’ intervention at all levels. Economic and university research sectors need to join this partnership for a different redistribution of wealth, for a transformation in economic and financial standards, for a reinvestment in local economy and for providing local governments with the means to act.

The challenge is clear: only the recognition of the right to the city for all, of the city as a common good; only inclusive, polycentric, cooperative and solidary metropolitan areas will serve us as bulwark against the barbarism we are facing.

As of 2036, it will be too late. It is only through joint action with nation States and UN, with local powers and UCLG, and citizens and their organizations that we will succeed in facing this challenge. Now, it is our time to act.