

## **Update process of the Global Charter- Agenda for Human Rights in the City**

Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights  
(CSIPDHR) - United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

### **Rationale:**

The year 2021 marked the 10th anniversary of the adoption by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) of the [Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City](#): the first document to propose an international framework for the understanding and implementation of human rights in the city from the perspective of Local and Regional governments.

More than 10 years after its adoption, the deep global transformations and growing inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, **UCLG and its [Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights](#) are kicking-off a participatory process to update the narrative, vision and content this milestone document.**

The update of the Charter-Agenda aims at further recognizing and reinforcing Local Governments' role to foster human rights; but also, **to inspire the future of the human rights cities' movement.**

### **Objectives:**

The update process will of the Global Charter-Agenda aims at:

- **Reflect the achievements and progresses made by Local Governments** in the past 10 years for the promotion of human rights;
- **Expand the global-local vision on human rights** of the current Charter-Agenda;
- **Feed the UCLG agenda**, including for the implementation of its [Pact for the Future of Humanity](#), adopted in the last UCLG World Congress in October 2022.

### **Methodology:**

The current structure of the document includes a “Charter” component and an “Agenda” one. The “**Charter**” provides detailed insights on the principles and vision of the document and of each of the 12 rights enshrined in it. The “**Agenda**” part is notably reflected in the sections called “Suggested Action Plan”, which consist in a series of action-oriented proposals on how to implement each of 12 rights at the operational level.

**The process will be coordinated by the Executive Secretariat of the UCLG-CSIPDHR and supervised by a Steering Board.** The Steering Board will be composed of partner experts of the UCLG-CSIPDHR; as well as of Local and Regional Governments officers (co-president or active members <sup>1</sup>of the Committee).

**The follow-up process will last until the next UCLG World Congress in 2026 and will be organized around 3 phases:**

First phase (2023) → update of the structure and main principles

**The first phase will be led by the Steering Board with the coordination of the UCLG-CSIPDHR.** The Committee might also wish to include relevant UCLG areas (e.g. Culture Committee; the International Observatory of Participatory Democracy; UCLG regional sections; etc). It will consist in:

- **Revamping the narrative and vision** reflected in the presentation; the preamble and the general provisions;
- **Reviewing the structure of the 12 rights** included in the Charter-Agenda: title, formulation and possible (re)grouping;
- **Expanding the scope of the Charter-Agenda by adding new or missing rights** (e.g. right to health or education; digital rights; environmental rights, etc) which are absent from the current version of the document.

**The outcome of this phase will be presented to political representatives of the co-presidency of the UCLG-CSIPDHR for validation,** and will represent a first common framework to elaborate the new text of the document.

Second phase (2024 - 2025) → update of the content

This phase will focus on revising the content of each of the rights included in the new texts and the “Suggested Action Plan”. **It will be led by any Local and Regional Governments expressing the willingness to lead a collective reflection on a specific right included in the new text and update its content.** This will consist in:

- **Organizing and coordinating (at least) two thematic consultations** on one specific right in a one-year span;
- **Drafting concrete “actionables”** to suggest how to implement that right at local level.

The Local Governments leading the consultations will work in close collaboration with the Steering Board and the CSIPDHR Secretariat.

In addition to this, Local and Regional Governments from all regions will be encouraged to send **open contributions** for the implementation of human rights which will be reflected in the Suggested Action Plan of the Charter-Agenda.

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<sup>1</sup> Selected on the basis of their experience, expertise and specific commitment to human rights at local level, especially in the framework of the activities of the UCLG-CSIPDHR

**The outcome of the second phase will contribute to foster the participation of cities worldwide in the update process; to better reflect geographical diversity; as well as to strengthen the ownership of the document.**

Third phase (2026) → validation and adoption

The last phase of the process will consist of:

- **The final validation of the revised text** by political representatives of the co-presidency and active members of the UCLG- CSIPDHR;
- **The establishment of governance and monitoring mechanisms** to ensure ownership and sustainability of the document;
- **The Adoption of the revised text by the UCLG World Council**

**Provisional Agenda 2023<sup>2</sup>**

<u>May 2023</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- First meeting of the Steering Board on the methodology of the update process</li> <li>- Online consultation with the Steering Board to provide inputs and suggestions on the structure</li> </ul>
<u>June 2023</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Second meeting of the Steering Board on the structure</li> <li>- Online consultation with the Steering Board to provide inputs and suggestions on the structure</li> </ul>
<u>July– August 2023</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Online exchange with the Steering Board to provide inputs and suggestions on the structure</li> <li>- Consolidation of the draft structure by the UCLG-CSIPDHR Secretariat</li> </ul>
<u>September - October 2022</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation of the draft structure at the political level by the Steering Board</li> <li>- Meeting of the Steering Board on the next steps</li> </ul>
<u>December 2023</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- International Human Rights Day (10 December)</li> <li>- Definition of the agenda for 2024 (second phase)</li> </ul>

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<sup>2</sup> N.B.: the provisional agenda includes only the year 2023, i.e. the first phase of the update process. Further information and the agenda for the other phases will be shared in due course.