

# Activities Report

2014

CISDP



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

The aim of the Committee is to contribute to building the common voice of UCLG cities on inclusion, participation and human rights, and to advise local governments on the design of these policies.

To that end, during the period 2014 the Committee carried out the following activities:

## ACTIVITIES REPORT 2014

### Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights

#### 1. ADVOCACY

- **Politic declaration on World Urban Forum**



The Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights, with the participation of Habitat International Coalition ([HIC](#)), World Forum of Peripheral Local Authorities (FALP) and [Mercociudades](#) adopted a [Declaration on World Urban Forum of Medellin](#) (WUF 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> April 2014).

The Declaration formulates **criticism** and **alternative proposals** on the political approach of the VII WUF, organized by [UN-HABITAT](#). Signatory organizations advocate for the idea that development does not automatically induce equity and social and spatial justice. That is why it is necessary to adopt an approach focused on human rights to urban and settlement policies. The Declaration proposes to adopt the **concepts of "city for life" and "right to the city"** as main lines for New Habitat III Agenda.

This Declaration received the support of four organizations: Brazilian Association of Municipalities ([ABM](#)), National Forum on Urban Reform ([FNRU](#)), [Polis Institute](#) and Brazilian Institute of Urban Law ([IBDU](#)).

- **Articulation with Habitat International Coalition for Settlement – Habitat III**



In order to achieve its strategic goals to put local policies on social inclusion, participatory democracy, human rights and right to the city at the center of the New Urban Agenda, which will be adopted during the Habitat III Summit of United Nations (2016), **the Committee worked with organized civil society**.

In 2014, this work was highlighted through the regular presence of social movements during every Committee meetings and, above all, through the co-foundation of the [Global Platform for the Right to the City](#) (see below).

## ACTIVITIES REPORT 2014

### Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights

- **New Urban Agenda of UCLG for Habitat III**



The Committee actively works for the definition of the New Global Agenda of UCLG through its participation in many working meetings and through the coordination of the thematic work on “inclusive cities” developed around the next Global Report on Local Democracy and decentralization.

(GOLD IV, see below)

## 2. INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS / ROUND TABLES

- **World Urban Forum, Medellin**

The Committee co-organized, with civil society organizations and academic sector, the following activities within the World Urban Forum (WUF) of Medellin, from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> of April 2014: **the networking event** “Scaling the Participatory Budgeting in the world for urban equity in development and local fiscal system” and the **working groups** “How to learn and implement the right to the city? Building democratic and sustainable cities” and “Growing + equal: shaping experiences of participatory budgeting for the youth. Tools and examples”.

Furthermore, the Committee and the Habitat International Coalition ([HIC](#)) promoted the **launch of the politic declaration**: “[Cities for life and the right to the city: lines for the new agenda of Habitat III](#)”, which is a critical analysis of the conceptual approach of the WUF.

## ACTIVITIES REPORT 2014

### Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights

- **4<sup>th</sup> World Human Rights Cities Forum, Gwangju (South Korea)**

The Committee co-organized, with Gwangju city, the [4<sup>th</sup> World Human Rights Cities Forum](#), which took place from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of May 2014.

Since 2011, the Forum gathers important actors committed to cities for human rights. The fourth edition of the Forum served as **an exchange platform of experiences, with more than 500 participants from 25 different countries**. There were representatives of human rights cities, human rights NGOs, grassroots organizations, local parliamentarians, searchers, rights experts of United Nation.



- **International Meeting for the Right to the City**



The Committee co-organized this event with the support of many civil society actors and municipalist movement, such as Habitat International Coalition ([HIC](#)), National Forum on Urban Reform (Brazil, [FNRU](#)), [Polis Institute](#) (Brazil), Brazilian Association of Municipalities ([ABM](#)) and Sao Paulo's city. The objective of the Meeting was **to discuss the implementation of the right to the city to fight against inequalities caused by the current accelerated urbanization process**.

Experts, social leaders, local authorities come from many countries from India to Egypt, and South Africa, South Korea, France, United States, Mexico, Brazil, etc. During the Meeting, a Global Platform for the Right to the City was set up. Its goals will be to exchange on the key principles, themes, commitments, aims and indicators to move forward the political agenda and especially towards the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III). **The Committee co-founded this Platform**.

## ACTIVITIES REPORT 2014

### Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights

#### 3. PRODUCTION AND DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE

- Diffusion of Inclusive Cities Observatory's case studies

In order to promote the 65 Inclusive Cities Observatory's case studies, the Committee publishes each week a case study in the "[News](#)" section website, which is then disseminated through social networks [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

- Report "Local Government and Human Rights" by the United Nations Human Rights Council Advisory Committee ([UNHRAC](#))



The Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights was invited by the United Nations Human Rights Council Advisory Committee to **contribute to a progress report on the role of local government in the promotion and protection of human rights**. The report highlights the local government fundamental role in the guarantee of human rights.

It also highlights the importance of the [Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City](#) and the [European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City](#) promoted by the Committee as key tools to promote human rights at the local level.

- GOLD IV

The new Global Report on Participatory Democracy and Decentralization (GOLD IV) of UCLG will adopt a **multidimensional approach** to explore the big challenges of the new 21<sup>st</sup> century's urban agenda. In this field, **the Committee leads the work developed around the "inclusive city" line**, with the help of numerous researchers of the Center for Social Studies ([CES](#)) of the University of Coimbra, under the direction of Giovanni Allegretti professor.



## **ACTIVITIES REPORT 2014**

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

#### **4. WORKING MEETINGS**

- **First biannual Meeting in Gwangju**

The [first 2014 biannual Meeting](#) was held on 17 May 2014 during the 4<sup>th</sup> World Human Rights Cities Forum. City **representatives from 16 countries of Europe, Asia, Latin America and Caribbean** and **representatives of academic sector and transnational platform of civil society participated to the Meeting**. The meeting's goal was to present the Committee's work to the new members and to adopt the [2014 Action Plan](#).

Furthermore, **a working group on the right to the city was created**. Mexico City proposed to lead it. This working group would carry out advocacy actions to defend the right to the city and human rights in the city particularly towards Habitat III process.

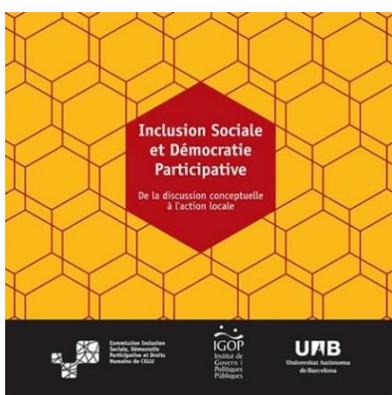


- **Second biannual Meeting in Guarulhos (canceled)**

This Meeting was canceled because there was no plural geographic representation of members. Therefore, Committee members have decided to preserve their energy to participate to the Meeting for the Right to the City in Sao Paulo.

## 5. COMUNICATION

- **Publication of the study “Social Inclusion and Participatory Democracy. From the conceptual discussion to the local action”**



The publication follows the graphical line of the Committee's previous publications. It was prepared by the Institut de Govern i Polítiques Públiques (IGOP) of the Autonomous University of Barcelona in 2010 on the request of the Committee. The study **questions the relation between participatory democracy and social inclusion**, provides an analysis of the multidimensional inclusion – exclusion phenomenon appearing in urban societies and of the different approaches of participatory democracy. **Concrete action plans** are then suggested to set up engaged local public policies for the defense of rights.

- **Structural and content improvement of CISDP website**

The website CISDP contents ([www.uclg-cisd.org](http://www.uclg-cisd.org)) have been continuously actualized throughout 2014 year. Plus, Committee members have been informed without interruption by means of regular send of newsletter and Circulars.

Other parts of the website have been improved: the search engine of "[Inclusive Cities Observatory](#)"; pictures, links to the available documents in "[Multimedia](#)"; list of Committee [members](#); maps of signatory cities of the [Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City](#) and the [European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City](#), as well as Circulars.



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### Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights



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

Avinyó, 15  
E-08002 Barcelona (España)  
Tel. +34 933 428 770  
Fax +34 933 428 760  
[www.uclg-cisdp.org](http://www.uclg-cisdp.org)

**Commission Inclusion  
Sociale, Démocratie  
Participative et Droits  
Humains de CGLU**

**Comisión de Inclusión  
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Humanos de CGLU**

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