



# ACTIVITY REPORT 2016

UCLG COMMITTEE ON  
SOCIAL INCLUSION,  
PARTICIPATORY  
DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN  
RIGHTS



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

*The **Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights**, acting as a network for Local Governments engagements and practices, contributes to articulating a common voice for UCLG cities on social inclusion, participatory democracy and Human Rights and to carry this voice at global level. To that end, the Committee fosters political debates, exchange of experiences and the collective generation of knowledge. It also orientates its member Local Governments in designing, implementing, evaluating and capitalizing their policies on social inclusion, participatory democracy and Human Rights, towards the progressive realization of the Right to the City.*



The year 2016 was marked by the participation of the Committee (CSIPDHR) in the Habitat III process, both within the framework of civil society, through the active

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participation in the Global Platform for the Right to the City, as well as within the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments coordinated by UCLG's World Secretariat. Taking part in this process allowed the CSIPDHR to promote the Right to the City at a global scale, as well as to strengthen its relation with civil society. The joint action of these diverse stakeholders played an important role in achieving, for the first time in an international text, a mention to the right to the city in the Habitat III Agenda. Ultimately, the Committee strengthened its presence and recognition in the global arena, by taking part to other networks' activities, in close coordination with academia and social movements. This was an important year to extend the network of cities and citizens, as well as its influence.

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## **I. POLITICAL ADVOCACY TO PROMOTE THE RIGHT TO THE CITY AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CITY**

In 2016, the CSIPDHR intensified the advocacy work started in 2015, focused in promoting the vision and messages of the Right to the City in the framework of UCLG as well as throughout the [Habitat III Process](#). These coordinated efforts were crucial for the adoption of a Global agenda - the [New Urban Agenda](#) - which refers to the concept of the Right to the City and contains some of its main components. The Quito Summit was preceded by a series of thematic and regional preparatory meetings, as well as meetings of the Preparatory Committee of delegates of States (“PrepComs”), where the Committee promoted the Right to the City and its contents through the adoption of declarations and the organization of sessions. In the framework of this process, the Committee worked within the [Global Platform for the Right to the City](#) - where Local Governments, Academia and Civil Society developed a continuous effort to articulate their voices at a global and European level. Finally, the CSIPDHR maintained its advocacy work for the recognition of the role of Local Governments in the protection, promotion and guarantee of Human Rights vis-à-vis the Human Rights system of the United Nations, through the international network of cities for Human Rights created, reinforced and extended through the different editions of the [World Human Rights Cities Forum of Gwangju](#).

### **Defending the right to the city throughout the Habitat III process**

#### **Follow-up process of the New Urban Agenda preparatory documents**

In coordination with the Committee’s Local Governments, the Global Platform for the Right to the City and the Global Taskforce of Local Governments, the Committee presented analysis, comments and recommendations on the preparatory documents of the NUA: policy documents, issue papers of experts involved in the ten Policy Units that preceded the writing of the Agenda, declarations – with a special regard to the declaration of Mexico on local finances and the declaration of Barcelona on public space- , as well as different versions of the NUA’s draft<sup>1</sup>. All the comments made by the Committee are available on the Committee’s [Habitat III monitoring webpage](#) especially designed to that matter. Online platforms such as “[Urban Dialogues](#)” or “[Quito](#)



<sup>1</sup> These documents are accessible at the webpage of the Habitat III Conference: <https://habitat3.org/>

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Implementation Plan” were also meaningful resources in order to make recommendations. Furthermore, the Committee also contributed to the official programs of the preparatory meetings held in the City of Mexico and Barcelona, involving member cities and civil society partners to carry messages and practices realizing the right to the city. Finally, the CSIPDHR signed joint declarations with the Global Platform for the Right to the City to assess the inclusion of the right to the city and its different components into the Agenda.

#### **Co-organization of the meeting on social expenditure of Local Governments and adoption of the Declaration “Financing the right to the city for all”**

*(Mexico City - 8 March)*

Within the framework of the Habitat III Thematic Conference held in Mexico on financing sustainable urban development (9-11 March), the Government of Mexico City, through its Secretariat for Social Development and the General Coordination of International Affairs, convened the meeting “Social expenditure of Local Governments: urban justice and equity” on 8 March. This session was co-organized by the CSIPDHR Secretariat and was supported by the UCLG Committee on Local Finance for Development, aiming to strengthen the Right to the City into the Habitat III process, especially in terms of local finances.

The Declaration “Financing the right to the city for all”, adopted in the framework of this side-event, recalled the need for real mechanisms of redistribution of wealth through fair taxation systems and advocated for public and citizen control of urban land and housing market.

#### **Co-organization of the parallel event “Rights of homeless people / street dwellers: What place in the New Habitat Agenda?” and adoption of the Declaration “Recommendations on the rights of homeless / street dwellers in the New Urban and Habitat Agenda”**

*(Barcelona - 3 April)*

Within the framework of Habitat III Thematic Conference on public space held in Barcelona, the Committee organized the parallel event “Rights of homeless people/street dwellers: What place in the New Habitat Agenda?” This session highlighted the need to include the rights of this group in the Habitat III Agenda, thus the Declaration “Recommendations on the rights of homeless / street residents in the New Urban and Habitat Agenda” was adopted. This roundtable was co-organized by the UCLG Committee of Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights along with the Habitat International Coalition (HIC), the Global



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Platform for the Right to the City, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights, and the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments. The minutes of the session are available [here](#).

#### Participation in a meeting of experts about Human Rights in the New Urban Agenda

(New York - 3-5 May)

The Committee took part in a meeting of Human Rights experts convened by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights and the Habitat III Secretariat in New York. This meeting aimed at crossing the analysis of Human Rights organizations on the Habitat III Agenda. The need to adopt a Human Rights-based approach of urbanization was highlighted, on the basis of the lack of this approach within the major trends in the ongoing urbanization process.

#### Participation in the United Nations Hearings to Local Governments

(New York - 15-17 May)

From 15 to 17 May, representatives from subnational governments around the world gathered at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. National governments and the United Nations were asked by local leaders to listen to their voice at the Habitat III negotiations. The CSIPDHR was represented by its co-president, Patrick Braouezec, President of Plaine Commune (in the metropolitan area of Paris, France). His contribution (available in French [here](#)) pointed out strengths and weaknesses in the draft of the New Urban Agenda, especially those relating to the Right to the City. He also highlighted the challenges that Local Governments face when trying to guarantee the welfare of cities' inhabitants.

#### Participation in the third Preparatory Committee for Habitat III

(Surabaya - 25-27 July)

The final Preparatory Committee of Habitat III was held in Surabaya, Indonesia. Delegates from the majority of Member states were present. The CSIPDHR took part in this "PrepCom" altogether with delegations from the Global Taskforce of Local Governments and the Global Platform for the Right to the City. Two side events about the Human Rights in the city and the Right to the City in the New Urban Agenda were co-organized with the Global Platform for the Right to the City and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The full report on the Committee's participation in Surabaya's "PrepCom" is available [here](#).





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#### Participation in the United Nations conference on Sustainable Urban Development and Housing Habitat III and alternative forums

(Quito - 16-20 October)



A Committee's delegation went to Quito to attend both the United Nations Habitat III Conference as well as several alternative forums organized in parallel to the Habitat III process. The Right to the City, promoted by the Committee for several years, was unanimously defended by the mayors at the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments that opened the Habitat III Conference. Patrick Braouezec, co-President of the Committee, was invited to present the need for the Right to the City in an increasingly urban world. Therefore, local leaders supported the mention of this right into the Habitat III Agenda,

achieved after arduous debates despite the strong opposition of some important countries, such as United States, the European Union, Canada and Japan. As an important sign of recognition, various cities of the CSIPDHR (City of México and Plaine Commune) were included in official events of the programme, such as the Urban Dialogue about the Right to the City.

The committee also took part to networking events : one about security of tenure and social inclusion, with the French Agency for Development, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; another on the implementation of the right to the city organized by the Global Platform for the Right to the City, and another one on Participatory Democracy and the Right to the City organized by ENDA Eco Pop. Patrick Braouezec also took part to the side- event on Multi-level Metropolitan Finance for 21<sup>st</sup> century Cities, organized by Brooking Institute and UCLG Committee on Local Finances for Development where he insisted on the need to share resources at metropolitan level.

In the framework of the Habitat III conference, the CSIPDHR, on behalf of UCLG, co-organized the launch of the campaign "The Shift", with the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. This campaign aims at defending the realization of housing as a right against its ongoing financialization. The launch event of the Campaign gathered representatives from several CSIPDHR members, such as Montevideo, Diyarbakır, Delhi, Plaine Commune, the City of Mexico, as well as hundreds of representatives from organizations defending the right to housing all over the world. The **report** on the activities of the Committee in Habitat III is available here.



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#### The Right to the City: the role of cities in Habitat III process

*(Badalona - 21 September)*

In order to highlight those challenges related to the New Urban Agenda in regards to the inclusion of the Right to the City, the Committee and Badalona City Council [organized an open debate](#) about the role of cities within the Habitat III. The panel discussion included Dolors Sabater, Mayor of Badalona; Patrick Braouezec, President of Plaine Commune; Jaume Asens, Deputy Mayor of Barcelona, and Irene Escorihuela, director of the Observatory for Social, Cultural and Economic Rights of Barcelona. During the debate, it was highlighted the strength of the global municipalist movement to promote solidarity-based cities and territories. The local level was also defended as the best space to improve the lives of citizens, putting people at the centre of a strong public action.



#### Participation in the Global Platform for the Right in the City



Global Platform for the Right to the City  
Plataforma Global por el Derecho a la Ciudad  
Plataforma Global pelo Direito à Cidade

The Platform gathers organizations from civil society, Local Governments and Academia. It aims to establish commitments, policies, projects and actions to build fairer, more democratic, sustainable and inclusive cities. The Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights is a co-founder of the Platform. It takes actively part to working groups on “Political Advocacy” and “Communication”.

CSIPDHR’s active involvement in the Platform throughout 2016 helped to coordinate the advocacy efforts made by civil society and Local Governments in the perspective of Habitat III, strongly contributing to the inclusion of the Right to the City and its principles into the Habitat III Agenda.

On the other hand, during 2016, the Platform kept up with the regional meetings started in 2015, focused on consolidating the Platform in different continents. The CSIPDHR took an active part in the organization of the European meeting of the Global Platform for the Right to the City, along with Barcelona’s Observatory on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights (Observatori DESC).

#### European meeting of the Global Platform for the Right to the City

*(Barcelona - 2-3 April)*

Barcelona [hosted the European meeting of the Global Platform for the Right to the City](#). It was an occasion for debating concrete implications of the Right to the City, especially when referring to housing, public space, solidarity economy, financing and specific implementation experiences. The final statement of this meeting is accessible in [the following link](#).

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#### Platform activities in the Habitat III conference and alternative forums

*(Quito - 16-20 October)*

In Quito, the Committee took part and co-organized several events with the Global Platform for the Right to the City (see p.6). The Committee also took part to a training session on the Right to the City and took part in the [Convergence Assembly for the Right to the City](#), organized in the framework of the alternative forum together with groups of inhabitants from all over the world. Finally, a Platform's coordination meeting was also held once after the Habitat Conference was over to evaluate the work of the Platform through the past two years and set the strategic lines for the coming years.

Throughout all these events, the Committee recalled that the Right to the City is based on the internationally acknowledged Human Rights, and that it aims to guarantee cities and human settlements as common goods, far from their commodification. Furthermore, the Committee emphasised that the right to city cannot become the “obligation to city”, and that the only possible and sustainable urbanization model must take into account the links with the rural surroundings. Lastly, the Committee argued that public finances –especially at the local level- and multilateral funds are necessary for a universal realization of the Habitat III Agenda. It also advocated for a monitoring system based on the territories and its inhabitants. Find an overview of the Quito and Bogotá sessions in [the following link](#).



#### “Habitat III... et après ?”

*(Paris - 17 [September](#) and 6 [December](#))*

Before and after the Habitat III Conference, the organizations AITEC and Centre-Sud organized two events that gathered several organization working on the right to the city and housing and researchers in order to provide a critical view on the Habitat III process. In this regard, representatives from social movements, civil society organizations, Local Governments and academia identified strategically relevant tools to enhance the process of producing the city as a



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common good for all inhabitants, preventing it from becoming a commodity and securing it as a common good.

#### **Political advocacy of the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City, the European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City and the document For a World of Inclusive Cities**

In 2016, the [Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City](#) was re-edited and re-printed.

All the events where the Committee took part in were opportunities to promote the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City and [the European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City](#). 250 charters were delivered during the Bogotá Congress and the Habitat III Summit. A promotion of both charters has also been achieved by a systematic reference to them in the Habitat III preparatory documents.



## **II. INTERNATIONAL SUMMITS AND SEMINARS**

### **Co-organization of the 6th World Human Rights Cities Forum**

*(Gwangju - 21-23 July)*

The Committee's co-presidents of the Gwangju Metropolitan City and [the Gwangju International Centre](#) organized the sixth edition of the [World Human Rights Cities Forum \(WHRCF\)](#) with the support of the CSIPDHR. Being the major summit of Local Governments committed with Human Rights, the 2016 edition was key to enhance the global network of cities

for Human Rights, as well as to promote Human Rights to the city towards Habitat III process. According to [Gwangju Guiding Principles](#), this Forum promotes the exchange of experiences based on practical cases and public policies that concretise the Human Rights at a local level, with the participation of scholars and civil society. The topic behind the sixth edition of the Forum was "Building Human Habitat Friendly Cities: Urban Development, Housing, and Environment". The summit was attended by representatives from several world cities: Mexico City, Barcelona, Badalona, Plaine Commune, Seoul, Jeju, Seongnam, Delhi, Inhambane and Lampung Kimur, as well as experts and representatives from organizations and institutions such as the el [Raoul Wallenberg](#)



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Institute of Human Rights, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights or the NGO ENDA-ECOPOP.

The Forum was organized around eight thematic sessions: environment, gender, disabilities and Human Rights, social economy and urban regeneration, elderly people's access to housing, education, immigration and refugees as well as childhood and youth. A plenary session took place as well, focused on the Right to the City and the need to include it in Habitat III Agenda. Finally, a workshop conformed by several experts in Human Rights and coordinated by the Korean Foundation for Human Rights, helped to develop specific guidelines for the implementation of standards and policies relating Human Rights in the city. The Forum's final statement showed a great commitment towards the Human Rights Cities network, advocating for its enlargement through the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights and civil society networks. It also reaffirms its commitment in the active engagement of worldwide cities advocating for Human Rights in international processes such as Habitat III or the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)'s implementation – essential frameworks whence to build fairer, more inclusive, democratic and sustainable territories.

### Coordination of sessions during the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders throughout the UCLG Congress

*(Bogotá – 12-15 October)*

The city of Bogotá held the 5<sup>th</sup> UCLG Congress – World Summit of Local and Regional Governments, an event where the Right to the City was at the centre of the debates. In this framework, the Committee coordinated the workshop “Co-Creating the City”, a practical exercise to concretize the Right to the City through the exchange of perspectives and practices in local governance, research and social activism. The event was formed by participants of “new generation” movements, such as *Occupy Wall Street* or movements for free culture such as *Iconoclastas*, side by side with mayors and representatives from cities such as Aubervilliers, Badalona, Barcelona, Bogotá, Canoas, Ciudad de México, the department of Seine-Saint-Denis, Gwangju, Montevideo, Lo Prado, Quito, Sao Paulo, Seoul, Pikine, Plaine Commune and Santa Ana. Furthermore, the CSIPDHR coordinated the political dialogue “The Right to the City at the heart of the New Urban Agenda”, with the mayors of Utrecht, Badalona, Pikine, the President of Plaine Commune and representatives of the UN High Commissioner for the Human Rights, WIEGO, Pablo Benson, from Occupy Wall Street and Habitat International Coalition. The CSIPDHR also took part in the learning session “Local Finances, Inclusive Governance and Participatory Budgets”, organized by the Learning Department of UCLG.



On the occasion of the summit, and under the initiative of local leaders from México City, Plaine Commune and Madrid, the World Congress of UCLG agreed on a Statement in support of

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Colombia's peace process. The document aimed at building a “society based on peace and social justice”, and it was also embraced by civil society organizations and other city members from the Committee. The Statement is available in Spanish in the following [link](#).

During the Bogotá Summit, and under the initiative of the Council Department of Seine-Saint-Denis, the CSIPDHR organized a meeting about the impact of hosting the Olympic Games in terms of social inclusion in the city. At this meeting, representatives from de the Council Department of Seine-Saint-Denis, Plaine Commune, Aubervilliers, Rio de Janeiro, the Polis Institute and Habitat International Coalition exchanged perspectives about the impact of hosting the Olympic Games in terms of access to housing and to urban infrastructures, in particular regard to the most vulnerable people.

The final report on the Committee activity throughout the UCLG Congress is available in [here](#).

### **Participation in the 16th OIDP Conference: Good Governance and Inclusive Participation**

*(Matola - 4- 6 May)*

The Committee took part in the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of the International Observatory of Participatory Democracy (OIDP), in Matola (Mozambique). Around 1.500 representatives from Local Governments, civil society and other institutions and organizations were present. Its sessions enabled a fruitful framework for debating and exchanging opinions in relation to participatory democracy, and allowed to strengthen the Committee's network by establishing new contacts with actors of the continent.



### **Participation in the International Summit for Social Inclusion**

*(Istanbul - 17- 18 May)*

The Committee took part in the International Summit for Social Inclusion, organized in Istanbul by the Turkish Union of Municipalities, UCLG-MEWA and supported by the European Commission. The summit served as a platform for debating and strengthening the capacity of action at a local level to improve the life of marginalized people. The report of the summit is accessible [in the following link](#).

### **Participation in the Pan-European Meeting of “Local Authorities and the New Generation of Free Trade Agreements”**

*(Barcelona - 21-22 April)*

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The Committee took part in the first Pan-European meeting of “Local Authorities and the New Generation of Free Trade Agreements”, that took place in Barcelona. It was co-organized by the “Catalonia Campaigns NO to TTIP”, the Local Council of Barcelona and the European Working Group created to that effect. A meeting was first held in the afternoon of the 21<sup>st</sup> between mayors and several public workers (closed event), followed by a meeting between staff members, public officials and representatives from trade unions, NGOs and business associations. In balance, it was a good opportunity to promote new bonds between civil society and Local Governments and to strengthen their common capacity to fight against international treaties that represent a risk for the provision of public services.

#### **Side event “The role of Local Government in the promotion and protection of Human Rights: Learning from Human Right cities”**

*(Geneva – 20 September)*

Within the framework of the 33<sup>rd</sup> session of the United Nations Human Rights Council, the Committee co-organized a side event in the UN Geneva Headquarters, in partnership with the Indonesian Forum for Development (INFID). The session was attended by Changrok Soh, member of UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee; Chusnunia Chalim, President of the Lampung Timur District; Núria Martínez, Head of Department of Human Rights and Interculturality of the City Council of Barcelona; Mugiyanto, Senior Program Officer for Human Rights and Democracy of INFID; and Magali Fricaudet, CSIPDHR coordinator. All participants highlighted the need to implement a Human Rights-based approach in their local administrations in order to fight inequalities and renew the commitment towards citizenship. The participants also shared their experience when applying Human Rights-based approaches at local level. Thus, Martínez presented the recently approved Human Rights Plan of Barcelona, and Chalim explained how the adoption of a Human Rights-based approach in her district contributed to building a more inclusive city for children.



#### **Participation in the international meeting of Public Service International**

*(Brussels - 19 September)*

The Committee took part in the meeting of the world network of public workers union (Public Service International) held in Brussels. It was a good opportunity to reaffirm the common engagement of public workers and UCLG for considering cities as a common goods, in particular reference to the Habitat III Summit. The meeting allowed also to enhancing alliances.



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#### Participation in the meeting of the “International Coalition of Cities against Racism”

*(Nairobi - 9-11 November)*

From 9 to 11 November, [the Committee took part in the meeting](#) of UNESCO’s International Coalition of Cities against Racism (ICCAR), celebrated in Nairobi. Hence, the CSIPDHR tightened its links with cities committed in fighting racism and discrimination, reaching an agreement with the city of Birmingham (Alabama, USA) to organize a world meeting of cities against racism and for Human Rights. The same meeting also aimed to provide inputs for a common publication “Towards enabling environment for urban inclusion” to be launched in 2017, and to design an assessment tool for Local Governments on social inclusion.

#### Participation in university conferences

In 2016, the Committee was represented by its Coordinator in two university conferences: “[Latin-America and Europe Dialogues: Cities and Global Challenges](#)” (University of Deusto, Bilbao, UNESCO Chair, 16 June) and “[Looking beyond the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Covenants: What interdependence and indivisibility for Human Rights?](#)” (University of Padua, UNESCO Chair, 13-14 December). On the occasion of the first event, the Committee’s contribution was focused on highlighting the importance of the Right to the City to build fair, democratic and sustainable cities and the necessary alliances to promote this right at local and international level. During the second conference, the Committee coordinator highlighted the role of Local Governments in guaranteeing Human Rights, particularly the economic, social, cultural and environmental ones. Furthermore, she referred to the challenges ahead that have to be tackled in order to secure the interdependence and indivisibility of Human Rights for all inhabitants of human settlements.

### III. SUPPORT TO COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO DEVELOP A HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH IN THEIR PUBLIC ACTION

#### Citizen Forum of Lisbon

*(Lisbon - 28 May)*

[The Committee was invited](#) to the third edition of the [Citizens’ Forum of Lisbon](#), a participatory framework of Lisbon City Council and the inhabitants where to collectively define local action against inequalities and exclusion from a Human Rights-based approach. On the third edition of this Forum, the Lisbon Charter for Social



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Rights was adopted after a large participatory process. The coordinator of the Committee was invited to share the experience of other Local Governments that had previously adopted a Human Rights-based approach, as well as to collaborate in the Charter's writing.

### Dissemination of the Human Rights Action Plan of Barcelona

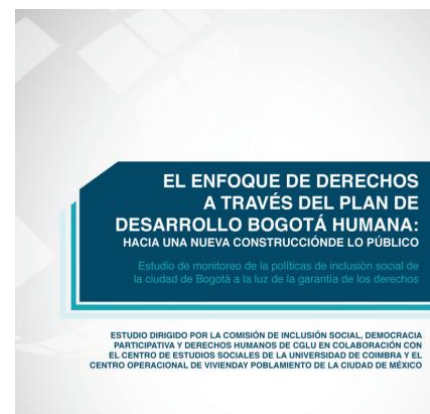
The [Human Rights Action Plan](#) promoted by the Local Council of Barcelona pursues two main goals: first, to guarantee, protect and respect citizens' rights within its local public action; second, to position the city as a world reference in Human Rights. The Plan is available in the following [link](#).

The Committee facilitated the dissemination of the Action Plan through its communication tools. It also brought Barcelona's Plan to the [World Human Rights Cities Forum held in Gwangju](#) and to the side event about the [Role of Local Government in the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights: Learning from Human Rights Cities](#) that took place throughout the 33<sup>rd</sup> session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva (see above). The Committee also provided some inputs in the writing process of the Guide about the Human Rights-based Approach of the City Council of Barcelona.

## IV. PRODUCTION AND DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE

### Publication of the report “The Rights Approach through the “Bogotá Humana” development plan: towards a new construction of the public sphere”

Between September and December 2015, [the Committee and the District Department for Social Integration of Bogotá's City hall developed a process of monitoring public policies](#) on early childhood, ageing people and street dwellers in the light of guaranteeing the Human Rights included in the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City. In 2016, the Committee published the whole monitoring report under the title [“The rights approach through the “Bogotá Humana” development plan: towards a new construction of the public sphere”](#). This report, as well as [a 50 pages executive summary in the 3 UCLG languages](#), are available online. Three study cases that present the policies studied have also been incorporated into the [Inclusive Cities Observatory](#).



### Conception and development of a peer learning session on “Social cohesion and intercultural and inter-religious dialogue” held in Lisbon, in the framework of the “Mediterranean City-to-City Migration Project”

(12-13 July)

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In the framework of the project MC2CM, the Committee coordinated the [peer learning session “Social Cohesion and Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue”](#). Representatives from Tangier, Beirut, Amman, Lisbon, Lyon, Turin, Wien, Madrid and the Catalan Fund for Cooperation and Development attended the session.

The Committee took an active role in writing [a conceptual thematic document](#) about this topic, and coordinated the methodological and contents proposal of the first peer learning session. As a result of this process, a [peer review](#) was realized, tackling challenges that Local Government face to include migrants, with case studies of social inclusion, and having recommendation.

Furthermore, the CSIPDHR took part in [the peer learning sessions of Madrid](#), focused on refugees and migrants’ access to the labour market, as well as the one held in Tangier about migrants’ access to rights.

The [MC2CM Project](#), led by the International Centre for Migratory Policies Development in partnership with UCLG World Secretariat and UN-Habitat, and funded by the European Commission and the Swiss Agency for Cooperation, aims at strengthening the role of Local Governments to include migrants at local level, and more specifically, improving their access to rights, in nine cities of the southern Mediterranean region and Europe.



### Contribution to UCLG’s GOLD IV Report about social inclusion in metropolitan areas and peripheral cities

The Committee took an active part in the fourth UCLG’s report about Decentralization and Local Democracy (GOLD IV), through its participation in the [thematic study about metropolitan areas and peripheral cities](#) and in the follow up of a conceptual document about inclusive cities proposed by Coimbra’s Centre of Social Study. The follow-up of the study on Metropolitan Areas has been a shared effort between the World Secretariat and UCLG city members, the Committee of Peripheral Cities, Metropolis and the research centre *La Vue* of the University of Paris VIII. Plaine Commune represented the Committee in the steering group of the study.

The report on [the Role of Metropolitan Areas in the Global Agenda of Local and Regional Governments for the 21<sup>st</sup> century](#), coordinated by Agnès Deboulet in the framework of the GOLD report, provides with a solid framework for analysing the impact of policies of attraction and competitiveness in the light of social justice and equity. This report has been translated into English and Spanish, and will soon be available online

### Dissemination of case studies of the Inclusive Cities Observatory

Aiming to promote the case studies of the [Inclusive Cities Observatory](#), currently gathering 68 experiences, the Committee published some of them in the [News](#) section of its website. It also disseminated its learnings through [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

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### V. COMMUNICATION

The contents on the [Committee's website](#) were continuously updated throughout 2016. In addition, the members of the Committee and the subscribers of the newsletter were regularly informed of the activities carried out through its newsletter.

The newsletters now include a section of "News from the members", where Local Governments' can propose to the Committee to promote activities that they develop. After receiving the information, the Executive Secretariat team disseminates the news through its newsletter and the website (available in English, French and Spanish).

A [follow-up page of the Habitat III process](#) was created on the Committee's website, where it can be found a continuous update of the documents produced in the framework of this process and the reactions it generated.

In the social networks, the regular update and content publishing led to a consistent growth both on Twitter and Facebook. More specifically, the Committee's profiles in the social networks received 2.000 new [Twitter](#) followers and 250 [Facebook](#) followers, reaching 3.000 and 650 followers respectively.



### VI. WORK MEETING

A [coordination meeting was held in Gwangju](#) the 22 July, in parallel to the [World Human Rights Cities Forum](#). Several representatives from Local Governments around the world attended the meeting (Badalona, Barcelona, Delhi, East Lampung, Gwangju, Inhambane, Plaine Commune, Seoul...), as well as from the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and other organizations defending the Human Rights. During the session, the CSIPDHR Secretariat presented the [actions developed in 2015](#), as well as the [foreseen activities for 2016](#). Furthermore, participants were also able to debate on how to strengthen the global alliance of Human Rights cities in order to achieve the Right to the City. As a consequence of this exchange, solid grounds were set to define the Committee's strategy for years to come. Minutes of the meeting are available in [the Committee's website](#).

### VII. REINFORCING AND STRENGTHENING THE COMMITTEE'S NETWORK

Throughout 2016, six new members joined the Committee: Pikine (Senegal), San Francisco de Milagro (Ecuador), the Brazilian Association of Municipalities, the Regional Council of Arta (Djibouti), the Department Council of Gossas (Senegal) and Madrid (Spain). In regards to the collaborating



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organizations, the Committee welcomed six new partners: [Solidarité Haitienne pour la Sécurité Alimentaire et Nutritionnelle - SOHASAN](#) (Haiti), [Juristes pour l'Environnement au Congo - JUREC Conseil](#), [ActionAid India](#), [Carbone Guinée](#) (Guinea), [Institut d'Alphabétisation pour la Paix et le Développement –INAPD](#) (Guinea) and [Regroupement des Jeunes Africains pour la Démocratie et le Développement](#) (Togo).

Furthermore, the government of the Metropolitan District of Quito (Ecuador) and the city of New Delhi, through Delhi Urban Shelter Board confirmed their membership; relations were established with the city of Badalona (Spain) and the relation with the City Council of Barcelona was deepened.

The workshop “[Co-Creating the City](#)” held during the Bogotá Congress also enabled to meet social movements that are contributing to the realization of the Right to the City.

The Committee also established more solid relations with other city networks, especially [UNESCO's International Coalition of Cities against Racism \(ICCAR\)](#) (see p.9).



## **VIII. ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE STRATEGY OF UCLG**

Throughout 2016, the Committee participated in the process of definition of the strategic priorities of UCLG and took part in their implementation. As a result, some relevant proposals of the CSIPDHR, such as the Right to the City and the Right to Housing, were incorporated in [the Bogotá Commitment](#).

In 2016, the strategic partnership between UCLG and the European Commission in order to strengthen the network of stakeholders in favour of decentralization and local democracy has also been maintained. In this regard, the Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights, represented by its Co-Presidency of Plaine Commune and its Executive Secretariat, took part in the [UCLG Retreat and Campus](#), which gathered UCLG network from 15 to 19 February in Barcelona, in order to create synergies between UCLG's various sections, committees and working groups, especially in relation to the UCLG Congress and the advocacy towards Habitat III Agenda.

The Committee was acknowledged as a strategic piece in the coordination work between UCLG and the civil society, as well as a leading thematic Committee in working for more inclusive, democratic and sustainable cities by promoting the Right the City in the framework of the [UCLG Global Agenda](#).

## **IX. MOBILIZATION IN FAVOR OF LOCAL DEMOCRACY IN DIYARBAKIR**

Gultan Kisanak, the mayor of our city member of Diyarbakir (Turkey), and his co-mayor, Firat Anli, were arrested on 25 October and placed into police custody, accused of having supported the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which is considered a terrorist organization. About fifteen municipal officials have also been arrested on the same charges. Access to the municipal buildings was blocked for two days and internet communications were blocked throughout the city from 25 to 27 October.

On the basis of [a statement issued by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights](#) regarding the abusive nature of this detention, [the CSIPDHR issued a statement](#) inviting its members to question their ministries of foreign affairs and the consulates of Turkey on the matter. At the current moment, it is being studied which follow-up should be given to the case, in order to support local democracy and to support Dyarbakir municipal team, which has been strongly committed for social inclusion and Human Rights within the Committee.



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The work of this Committee has been possible thanks to the contribution of its active members:



*In 2016, the Committee received financial support from UCLG's World Secretariat in the framework of the project "Strengthening Associations of Local Authorities at Regional, EU and Global Levels" of the EU Thematic Programme "Civil Society Organisations and Local Authorities". (SPECIFIC GRANT AGREEMENT No. DCI-NSA/2016/372-440)*

