



2018

ANNUAL REPORT

Articulating a common voice of UCLG local and regional governments on social inclusion, participatory democracy and human rights, with a view to realize the right to the city



**UCLG
CGLU**

United Cities and Local Governments

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1.1 RELAUNCHING DE GLOBAL NETWORK OF “LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS”

In 2018, and on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the policy process that led to the adoption of the European Charter for Human Rights in the City and the Asian Charter for Human Rights, the 25th anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the 50th anniversary of Henri Lefebvre’s Right to the City, and 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, various local authorities across the world expressed their willingness to relaunch the global movement of local governments for human rights (“Cities for Rights”). Our Committee has provided a meaningful meeting point for exchanging and promoting these initiatives at a global level – organizing local government meetings for human rights and the WHRCF Forum in Gwangju – as well as to promote partnerships with the OHCHR - Office of the UN High Commissioner.

1.1.1 *Organization of a workshop of European local governments: “Human rights cities and territories in Europe: What realities and what perspectives?”*

(11 December, Barcelona)

On the occasion of the “Cities for Rights” Conference held in Barcelona, our member-local governments of Barcelona, Madrid and Plaine Commune wished to invite several European cities and regions to share their experiences in regards to human rights. This discussion was held in parallel to the conclusion of the follow-up process on the implementation of the European Charter for Human Rights in the City (2001), which our Committee carried out throughout 2018 thanks to the participation of 33 municipalities. The workshop of “European local governments for human rights” focused on assessing the challenges and opportunities for human rights cities in the near future.

About 40 participants attended the workshop, including representatives from Barcelona, Terrassa, Sabadell, Cardedeu and Cerdanyola del Vallès (Catalonia, Spain), Bilbao and Gipuzkoa (Euskadi, Spain), Athens (Greece), Middelburg (Netherlands), Nuremberg and Cologne (Germany), Naples and Bologna / ECCAR (Italy), the Swedish Association of Local and Regional Authorities (SALAR) and the Catalanian Fund for Development Cooperation. As co-chair of the Committee, a delegation of representatives from Gwangju (South Korea) also participated in the meeting.

Know more : <https://www.uclg-cisdg.org/en/news/latest-news/human-rights-cities-and-territories-europe-what-realities-and-what-perspectives>

1.1.2 *Co-organization of the World Human Rights Cities Forum (WHRCF): New alliances aimed at putting human rights at the heart of 2030 agendas*

(18 – 21 October, Gwangju)

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From 18 to 21 October, our co-chair city of Gwangju hosted the 8th edition of the World Human Rights Cities Forum (WHRCF): A paramount event for the international human rights cities movement co-organized on a yearly basis by the Gwangju International Centre and our Committee. On this year's edition, the Forum focused on the issue of diversity and the Right to Peace, articulating meaningful local commitments in favor of inclusive policies in regards to migrations. The Forum was also a good opportunity to explore new alliances towards a 2030 agenda for human rights cities.

The 2018 edition of the Forum gathered speakers from Korea and Asia, but also from other world regions such as Europe, the Middle East and the Americas. As a partner organization, our Committee organized a local government delegation formed by representatives from Amman, Barcelona, Grigny, Sao Paulo and Vienna. The WHRCF 2018 was also marked by the participation of “Human Rights Mayors” from some of the largest cities in Korea, such as Gwangju, Seoul, Daegu or Suwon.

Know more : <https://www.uclg-cisd.org/en/news/latest-news/new-alliances-aimed-putting-human-rights-heart-2030-agendas-gwangju-hosts>



1.1.3 Co-organization of a meeting of local governments and civil society in Africities: “African Visions and Realities on the Right to the City”

(22 November, Marrakesh)

See section 1.2.2 in “Advocacy and political debates”

1.1.4 Monitoring the process of recognition of local governments’ role in the promotion and protection of human rights (United Nations)

(September, Human Rights Council - Geneva)

The Human Rights Council adopted a new resolution on the “local government and human rights” agenda after its 39th period of sessions (10 – 28 September). The resolution encourages the interaction between Sustainable Development Goals and human rights localization agendas,

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and calls on the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and relevant stakeholders to interact and strengthen dialogue with local governments with a view to collectively enhance the effective promotion and protection of human rights at the local level.

Our Committee has followed-up closely this process since its inception. To do so, and after the leadership of various member-local governments, it has organized various local government delegations to Geneva, presenting official statements, supporting the celebration of side events in partnership with civil society and action-research organizations and fostering the process to create guiding principles on local government and human rights. In 2018, the Committee disseminated the latest updates about this process among its network of members and supported the OHCHR's call for contributions on human rights localization experiences.

Know more about the resolution A/HRC/39/L.8: <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/latest-updates-process-recognize-role-local-government-promotion-and-protection> **Know more about OHCHR's call for contributions:** <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/call-contributions-local-governments'-initiatives-promote-and-protect-human-rights>



1.1.5 *Articulation with the OHCHR and the UN on human rights*

See section 4.5 in “Strengthening the network”

1.1.6 *Other participations, events and processes*

a. The Committee Secretariat attends an Expert Meeting on Guiding Principles on Human Rights and Economic Reform Policies (United Nations)

(2 – 3 July, Geneva)

This meeting was held in Geneva and was organized by the UN Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt Juan Pablo Bohoslavsky. On this occasion, the Committee's Secretariat coordinator shared the role played by local authorities in this context, as well as concrete challenges faced, such as budgetary constraints, lack of decentralization and the imposition of austerity policies.

Know more : <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/human-rights-impact-assessment-economic-reform-policies-un-human-rights-council>

b. Montevideo reaffirms its commitment to turn human rights and the right to the city into guiding principles of its urban agenda

(16 – 18 April, Montevideo)

From 16 to 18 April, and on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the city of Montevideo organized the seminar “*Diálogos Urbanos: Debates y Reflexiones para construir la agenda urbana de la ciudad*”. Our Committee attended this event in order to learn more about Montevideo’s initiatives and the debates taking place in this city in regards to human rights and the right to the city (gentrification, urban resistances or feminism). It also helped to raise awareness over its conclusions among Committee members.

Know more: <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/montevideo-reaffirms-its-commitment-turn-right-city-guiding-principle-its-urban>

c. Video-participation in Wonosobo’s Human Rights Festival

(13 – 15 November, Wonosobo)

On this occasion, some members of the Committee and its Secretariat sent their support to the Festival, recalling that Indonesian cities are pioneers in the promotion of human rights and that their commitment will be key to establishing greater cooperation between cities at the global scale.

Know more : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9n3MNIhebs4&t=10s>

d. The Right to the City in a land in conflict: The situation of Palestinian cities 70 years after the “Nakba”

(15 May)

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the “Nakba” (the “Day of the Catastrophe”, which evokes the expulsion of many Palestinians from their home in 1948), the Committee showcased in an article the words of the mayor of Bethlehem, Anton Salman, who participated, at the invitation of the Committee and the city of Gwangju, in the World Human Rights Cities Forum. The Committee also shared in the same context a brief report of the situation of three Palestinian member-municipalities, as well as the initiatives of the global municipal movement in solidarity with Palestine and for peace and human rights in the region.

Know more : <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/right-city-land-conflict-situation-palestinian-cities-70-years-after-nakba>



1.2 THE RIGHT TO THE CITY AS CORNERSTONE OF LOCAL AND GLOBAL AGENDAS

At the Bogotá Congress, the Committee network mobilization contributed to the advance of the right to the city in UCLG's action agenda. This concept was identified as essential for building a renewed "social contract" at the local level between citizens and local governments. In 2018, members and partners of the Committee promoted events that celebrated the 50th anniversary of Henri Lefebvre's "Right to the City" eponymous book. These events have sought to defend the right to the city in a time of profound urban transformations: A call to put citizens individual and collective priorities at the heart of city-making and the urban project. In 2018, members of the Committee also participated in two spaces created by UCLG after 2016 to further develop the world organization policy agenda on the right to the city: The Policy Councils and the Waves of Action. The Committee also strengthened its alliance with the Global Platform for the Right to the City to connect the Right to the City with the 2030 Agenda and NUA.

1.2.1 *Alliance with civil society to defend the right to the city as a pillar of 2030 agendas: Participation in the High Level Political Forum on the SDGs*

(9 – 18 July, New York)

Through its participation in the political advocacy and communication working groups of the Global Platform for the Right to the City (GPR2C), the Committee supported and took part in the global campaign for the right to the city held throughout the High Level Political Forum on the monitoring of the SDGs in July (New York). More specifically, this campaign defended the right to the city and human rights as pillars of the implementation of sustainable development agendas, as well as to claim the acknowledgment of local authorities and civil society role in this process. The Platform's campaign was carried out by several civil society organizations and ran parallel to the launch of the Cities for Adequate Housing Declaration, promoted and coordinated by several active local governments of the Committee (see section 3.1 in "Advocacy and Political Debates").

1.2.2 *Co-organization of a meeting of local governments and civil society in Africities: "What African vision and realities on the right to the city?"*

(22 November, Marrakesh)

Last November, the Committee and the Global Platform for the Right to the City organized the session "Right to the City and global agendas: African realities and perspectives" on the occasion of Africities: The largest summit of African cities organized every three years by UCLG Africa. Representatives of African municipalities and civil society took part in this event, recognizing it as an opportunity to deliver key policy messages and share their vision of the most pressing urban challenges faced by the continent. They also aimed to explore common actions for urban justice. In continuity to the GPR2C Nairobi meetings, this event helped to advance an African vision of the right to the city, while promoting new alliances between municipalities and civil society.

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The meeting brought together representatives of African local authorities: The mayor of Tunis, Souad Abderrahim; the President of the Regional Council of Nouakchott, Fatimetou Abdel Malick; Rabat's councillor Abderrahmane Bouloud; and the deputy mayor of Douala, Achille Azemba Momo. Among civil society: The CUBES Center of South Africa; Enda Third World; Planact; Public Service International; CODAS Caritas Douala; the Development Workshop of Angola; and World Enabled.

Know more : <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/african-perspectives-and-realities-right-city-meeting-local-governments-and-civil>



1.2.3 *Participation in the meeting “Henri Lefebvre’s Right to the City”*

(4 – 5 April, Saint Denis)

From April 4 to 5 the Committee organized – in partnership with the association “La Ville en Commun” and other civil society groups– the conference “Henri Lefebvre’s Right to the City”. On this occasion, researchers, former students of Henri Lefebvre, urban planners, architects, civil society and local authorities discussed about the legacy and challenges posed to the Right to the City as envisioned by Henri Lefebvre’ 1968 eponymous book. The Committee contributed to two different roundtables of the Conference: “What Right to the City for migrants?” and “The Right to the City; Alternatives for another world?” This was a good occasion to present key messages on human rights universality, the challenges met by local authorities in making their voice heard in the Global Compact for Migration or the commitments adopted by UCLG throughout Habitat III.

Know more : <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/right-city-what-prospects-fifty-years-after-henri-lefebvre-s-eponymous-book>

1.2.4 *Supporting the organization of UCLG’s Policy Councils on the Right to the City and Inclusive Territories of Strasbourg and Madrid*

(24 May, Strasbourg – 7 November, Madrid)

On the occasion of UCLG’s Policy Council on the Right to the City held in the framework of Strasbourg’s Executive Bureau of 2018, co-chairs and councillors of this recently created mechanism expressed a strong commitment towards human rights-based strategies on housing and migration.

This edition of the Policy Council was instrumental in order to articulate shared messages between cities, put in common their challenges and propose future strategies for joint action with a view to influence strategic events in 2018: The High-Level Political Forum on the Monitoring of the SDGs (HLPF) (July) and the adoption of the Global Compact on Migrations (December).

Know more : <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/local-governments-launch-appeal-rights-based-strategies-housing-and-migrations>

The UCLG World Council of Madrid hosted a new edition of the Policy Council on the Right to the City, this time focused on the issue of migrations. This meeting helped define the organization's strategy face to the adoption of the Global Compact for Migration. In this regard, representatives of the International Organization for Migration and UCLG members agreed to work together to advance the involvement and recognition of local authorities stakeholders in the implementation and follow-up process of the Compact. The meeting built on the policy messages of the "Cities and Migrations" Conference held in Mechelen and was in line with demands for greater attention to the human rights approach expressed in Gwangju's World Human Rights Cities Forum (October).

Know more : <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/committee-pursues-its-commitment-towards-human-rights-defense-occasion-madrid's>

1.3 A GLOBAL CALL FOR THE RIGHT TO HOUSING AND AGAINST FINANCIALIZATION: "CITIES FOR ADEQUATE HOUSING" AND "THE SHIFT" MOVEMENT

2018 was marked by the consolidation of the process launched by some members of the Committee in 2016 in order to promote collective initiatives around the right to housing. This process was articulated by the participation of the Committee and UCLG in "The Shift": A global movement for the right to housing and against the financialization of cities launched by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing, Leilani Farha. On the occasion of the New York High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development Goals (July), a group of global cities launched a pioneer document, the "Cities for Adequate Housing" Declaration, to which fifty local governments and organizations from around the world joined by the end of 2018. The Committee facilitated the drafting of the document and initial participation of local governments, as well as follow-up to the text in the following months. By the end of 2018, UCLG launched a "Community of Practice on Housing" to strengthen debate and exchange of practices around the text.

1.3.1 *The Right to Housing at the Human Rights Council: Launch of the annual report of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing Leilani Farha*

(2 March, Geneva)

On 2 March, UCLG took part in the Human Rights Council session "How to shift housing from a commodity to a human right" convened by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing, Leilani Farha. This event was mainly focused on assessing and promoting human rights-

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based housing strategies at all levels of governments as a way to fulfil the Right to Housing and to tackle worldwide housing commodification. Geneva's side-event was primarily focused on discussing the importance of the different spheres of government and their relationship when implementing human rights-based housing strategies. Emilia Sáiz represented the World Secretariat of UCLG on this event. Sáiz brought the voice of local and regional governments committed with the Shift movement, and stressed the need to provide more competences and resources to local and regional governments worldwide to progressively fulfil the Right to Housing.

Know more: <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/uclg-brings-voice-local-and-regional-governments-calling-rights-based-housing>

1.3.2 *Launching of the Cities for Adequate Housing Declaration and special session "Right to Housing: Bringing together the voices of local governments"*

(15 – 16 July, New York)

Our constituency lived a historical turning point last 15 and 16 July, when a group of global cities brought to the UN a firm pledge for the Right to Housing in the form of the Declaration "Cities for Adequate Housing". This global call for action builds on The Shift campaign, launched by the UN Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, Leilani Farha. Local and regional governments are now demanding coordinated action to tackle speculation and the growing power of global corporations over real estate market. The Committee facilitated the drafting process of the Declaration throughout 2017 and 2018 under the leadership of some of its active members, in parallel to the UCLG Wave of Action on the Right to Housing.



On the occasion of New York's event, the Committee also facilitated the organization of a special session on July 15, on the eve of the official launch of the declaration. The Mayors of Barcelona, Berlin, Montevideo, Madrid, Montreal, Strasbourg, the Vice-President of Plaine Commune and

New York's Deputy Mayor took the floor to support this initiative. In particular, they stressed the importance of not leaving the housing issue to market rules alone, and defended the need for public intervention in order to guarantee dignified living conditions for all city dwellers.

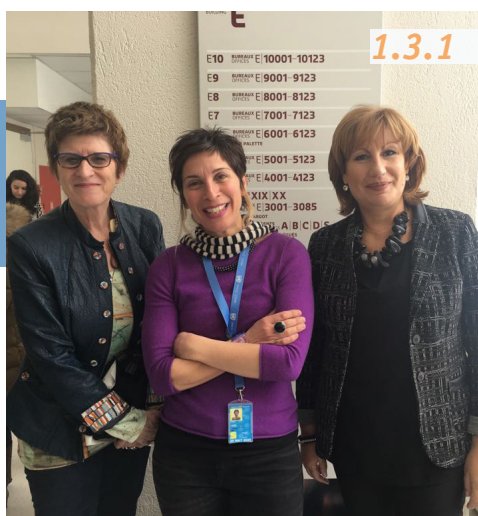
Know more about the Declaration: <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/cities-adequate-housing-call-action-ensure-right-housing> **Know more about the Special Session:** <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/right-housing-and-right-city-cities-across-world-come-together-launch-common>

1.3.3 *Launching the first meeting of the Community of Practice on Housing*

(7 November, Madrid)

Signatory local and regional governments of the Declaration “Cities for Adequate Housing” met in Madrid on November to discuss ways forward in their joint quest for the right to housing. Barcelona, Mexico City, Montevideo, Plaine Commune, Seoul, Strasbourg, Taipei, and Terrassa took part in the first meeting of this type, held in the framework of the recently created UCLG Community of Practice on Housing. Participants agreed to work on monitoring tools and indicators to measure the realization of the human right to housing at the local level. This will allow to effectively advocate for further competences and resources for local governments to tackle the housing crisis.

Know more: <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/community-practice-citiesforhousing-meets-madrid-define-joint-strategy>



1.3.4 *Participation to the Vienna Conference “Affordable housing for all”*

(4 – 5 December, Vienna)

On 4 - 5 December, the City of Vienna hosted the “Housing for All” Conference, a forum to present a European Action Plan to implement concrete policies for the right to housing. The gathering also kicked-off a campaign by European cities to put housing high on the agenda of the upcoming European election. Vienna, Barcelona and Lisbon, as promoters of the initiative within the Cities for Housing global movement, saw the support of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing, Leilani Farha. On this occasion, the Secretariat of the Committee supported the UCLG delegation to this meeting and facilitated the coordination between the Declaration and the European initiative.

1.1.6 *Other participations, events and processes*

Supporting the meeting “The role of cities in the protection of the right to housing”

(18 January, Madrid)

The member city of Madrid organized this meeting with the aim of advancing local discussions around the right to housing. During the debate, a Committee representative shared the latest progress of the Cities for Housing movement increasingly articulated within the network. The Committee also facilitated the video participation of Special Rapporteur Farha in this debate.

Supporting the organization of a session on The Shift during the World Urban Forum

(7 – 13 February, Kuala Lumpur)

The coordinator of the Committee’s Secretariat participated in an event organized by the team of the Special Rapporteur Leilani Farha on the occasion of the Ninth World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur. In this regard, the coordinator highlighted the role played by some local authorities in this transversal movement for the right to housing, sharing their priorities and specific objectives.

1.4 CONTRIBUTING TO BRINGING THE VOICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO ONGOING DEBATES ON THE GLOBAL GOVERNANCE OF MIGRATIONS

The organization of UCLG’s “Cities for Migration” Wave of Action has been a good opportunity for many local governments to contribute, within the framework of the Committee, to ongoing debates on the global governance of migration. They did so by sharing their point of view and on the basis of their local practices and aspirations. Gwangju’s WHRCF focused for instance on the issue of migration and diversity, demonstrating the connection that many local governments establish between social inclusion policies for migrants and human rights. On the other hand, other local practices shared within the network during this year have demonstrated the commitment of local governments to combat the rise of racism around the world. Strengthening social cohesion and citizenship rights of all inhabitants has been identified as key. In 2018, the Committee also supported UCLG’s efforts in making the voice of local governments heard on the drafting process of the Global Compact on Migration (Marrakesh, December).

1.4.1 *Co-organization of the World Human Rights Cities Forum (WHRCF): New alliances aimed at putting human rights at the heart of 2030 agendas*

(18 – 21 October, Gwangju)

See section 1.1.2 “Political debate and advocacy”

1.4.2 *Local governments from the FAMSI network reaffirm their commitment to implement policies on migration that respect human rights*

(15 May, Seville)

The meeting “Andalucía Integradora: City networks as a local instrument for social cohesion at the city level” allowed different experts and local governments to share their experiences and concerns about policies of social inclusion and reception of migrants and refugees. It was organized by the Andalusian Fund of Municipalities for International Solidarity – FAMSI. Our Committee coordinator participated in the round table “Governance Models in Diversity Management and Migration Policies: Co-responsibility of stakeholders and citizen participation”, which allowed to present both policies on migration brought by some of our members and the current issues at the international level in the context of the negotiations on the Global Compact for Migration (GCM).

Know more : <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/local-governments-famsi-network-reaffirm-their-commitment-implement-policies>



1.4.3 *Supporting the Wave of Action “Cities for Migration” of UCLG*

After advocating for the need to listen to cities and implementing rights-based strategies on migration during the 2017 “Cities and Migration Conference” (Mechelen, Belgium), in 2018 the Committee continued to support local government actions aimed at influencing the drafting process around the Global Compact for Migration. This work was done in coordination with the UCLG World Secretariat, which carried out numerous actions throughout the year to support the participation of local governments in this international process. In this regard, the Committee played a supportive role in ensuring that the voices of cities for human rights were well-heard.

In March 2018, the Committee published a report on key policy messages shared during the Mechelen Conference (2017), which greatly contributed to the organization’s position on human rights and migration. The Secretariat of the Committee also supported the organization of the important session on migration held at Africities (November), which was key to address the Global Compact’s final adoption conference. It also supported the dissemination of press releases and initiatives addressed to its members by the UCLG Secretariat as part of the wave of action “#Cities4Migration”.

KNOWLEDGE HUB AND AWARENESS RAISING 02

2.1 NEW PUBLICATIONS

In 2018, the Committee published the report **“The role of metropolitan areas in the global agendas of local governments for the 21st century”**, which reviews those various realities arising from the ongoing, global process of metropolization. It highlights possible alternatives to mainstream approaches to such topic, influenced by competitiveness and financialization of urban development, promoting in alternative the right to the city, the right to centrality and spatial justice.

This report was produced as a contribution to the Habitat III process by the LAVUE center (University Paris Nanterre) in collaboration with our Committee and Plaine Commune. It is the result of a dialogue between scholars and elected officials, and aims to establish a diagnosis of the challenges posed by metropolization processes, and to bring recommendations on the basis of local practices of metropolitan governance arising from many members of the Committee.



Know more about it
<https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/report-competitive-metropolises-and-prospects-spatial-justice>”-already-available

2.2 INCLUSIVE CITIES OBSERVATORY

As part of the MC2CM project, our Committee published new case studies in the Inclusive Cities Observatory, in collaboration with the Development Planning Unit of the Bartlet Institute (UCL). These study cases focus on social inclusion policies aimed at migrants developed by nine cities of the Mediterranean region. In a context of globalization of human mobility, these studies illustrate the role played by local governments in ensuring social cohesion and the universality of rights at the territorial level; a central element in the shared effort to “leave no one behind”.

Know more about it: <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/new-case-studies-fostering-social-inclusion-migrants-local-level>

2.3 REPORTS AND INTERVIEWS

Throughout 2018, the Committee's Secretariat published various interviews and reports on local initiatives endeavored by some of its active members. This work has helped to raise awareness on local government-led actions in the fields of human rights and the right to the city.



Report "In Seoul, a municipal government division works to mainstream the rights approach in local public action"

<https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/seoul-municipal-government-division-works-mainstream-rights-approach-local-public>



Interview "Guaranteeing universal rights in a city crossed by migratory routes: Nador's local action to improve migrants' living conditions"

<https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/guaranteeing-universal-rights-city-crossed-migratory-routes-nadors-local-action>



Interview "Cities are taking the lead in shifting the global narrative on migrations: Mechelen advocates for embracing diversity and to fight racism"

<https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/cities-are-taking-lead-shifting-global-narrative-migrations-mechelen-advocates>



Interview "Plaine Commune and the Right to Housing: Guaranteeing "a rooftop for everyone" in a working-class metropolitan territory"

[https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/plaine-commune-and-right-housing-guaranteeing-"a-rooftop-everyone"-working-class](https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/plaine-commune-and-right-housing-guaranteeing-)



Report "Promoting "Human Development" through an approach based on participation and human rights: Goicoechea (Costa Rica) and the Tables for Dialogue"

[https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/promoting-"human-development"-through-approach-based-participation-and-human-rights](https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/promoting-)

3.1 FIELD VISITS

3.1.1 *Field visit of Plaine Commune and Seine-Saint-Denis to Granollers and Barcelona: Learning from the 1992 Olympic Games edition*

(26 – 27 November, Granollers and Barcelona)

A delegation from the Seine-Saint-Denis Department, Plaine Commune and the City of Saint-Denis (France) visited the City of Granollers (Spain) in order to meet with Mayor Josep Mayoral, as well as with former Mayors, Councilors and officers of Barcelona and its metropolitan area (l'Hospitalet de Llobregat, Badalona, Diputació de Barcelona). The aim of this delegation was to establish contacts and to exchange knowledge on the lessons learnt by Barcelona and its neighboring cities during the organization of the 1992 Olympic Games, in view of the organization of the 2024 Olympic Games (which will be held by Paris and its metropolitan area). In the second day of visit, the French delegation enjoyed a field visit to the neighborhoods of Poblenou and Vila Olímpica of Barcelona, which were renewed on the occasion of the 1992 Olympic Games.

French delegates from the Seine-Saint-Denis and Plaine Commune were very satisfied with the visit to Granollers and the way Barcelona and its neighboring cities organized the 1992 Olympics. They also highlighted how the 1992 Olympic Games provided a historical opportunity for a country that, at that time, had only recently overcome Franco's dictatorship and where people wanted to open up to the world and actively participate in the improvement of their cities. For the Grand Paris (Paris metropolitan area), the 2024 Summer Olympics could play a key role to consolidate the realization of a just and integrated metropolitan area where all the inhabitants can benefit from this event.

Know more about it: <https://www.uclg-cisdg.org/en/news/latest-news/paris-2024-olympic-games-french-delegation-visits-granollers-and-barcelona-order>



LEARNING

3.1.1 *Field visit of Gwangju's Co-Presidency to the City of Barcelona and working meetings with the Committee and UCLG's Secretariat*

(12 December, Barcelona)

A delegation from Gwangju visited Barcelona on December to attend the International Conference “Cities for Human Rights” organized by the City of Barcelona and the European Workshop of Local Governments for Human Rights organized by the Committee in the framework of the Conference.

The Gwangju delegation took this opportunity to hold several bilateral meetings with representatives of Barcelona through the facilitation of Aida Guillén, director of the Department of Citizenship Rights and Diversity of the Catalan capital. During these meetings, the Gwangju delegation met with various municipal representatives responsible for human rights, feminism and LGBTI communities. Lastly, the Gwangju delegation held a final working meeting with the Executive Secretariat of the Committee on 13 December. On this occasion, Gwangju representative were able to work with the Secretariat to begin preparations for the next WHRCF Forum, discuss the latest developments in the UN human rights system, and explore options for increasing the Commission's visibility in Asia.

Know more about it: <https://www.uclg-cisd.org/en/news/latest-news/report-gwangju's-delegation-barcelona-and-visit-secretariat-our-committee-and-uclg>



3.2 LEARNING EVENTS

3.2.1 *Training local civil society of Barcelona in using international mechanisms aimed at the protection of human rights*

(22 – 23 May, Barcelona)

On May 22 and 23, the Committee co-organized with the Department for Citizenship Rights and Diversity of Barcelona and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, a pilot training course on international mechanisms for the protection of human rights aimed at local civil society organizations. Institutions such as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Human Rights Council and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) were presented to participating associations, as well as other UN mechanisms. Another key point of the session was group work, as it allowed to explore shared work tracks among organizations.

Know more about it: <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/training-local-civil-society-organizations-international-mechanisms-human-rights>

3.3 PARTICIPATION IN WORKSHOPS AND LEARNING EVENTS

3.3.1 *Right to the City and Participatory Democracy: Participation in the IOPD Jury and to Montreal IPAM's meeting on participatory democracy*

Local democracy has gained weight in the agenda of UCLG throughout 2018. In November, and on the occasion of its 18th annual Conference, the assembly of members of the International Observatory of the Participatory Democracy (IOPD) approved a new Agenda for Local Democracy, which will foster debates on this topic held within the framework of UCLG. Due to its partnership with the IOPD, our Committee took part in various stages of the IOPD Prize "Good practice in citizen participation" and attended several of the Conference's working sessions (November 25 – 27).

The Committee has also been able to articulate IOPD's debates with other thematic discussions throughout 2018, such as the right to the city or human rights. The Committee contributed to disseminate the results of the OHCHR consultation process on the Right to Participate in Public Affairs where Gwangju took part in 2017. IOPD's Secretary General also participated in the CSIPDHR meeting held in Madrid, where he shared the Observatory's priorities with members of the network.

Finally, the Committee participated in the Forum on the Future of Participatory Democracy in Montréal organized by IPAM. This meeting allowed to reflect on the crisis of representative democracy and the renewal of the practices of direct democracy. The various round tables highlighted the aspirations of Montrealers and ways to improve their participation in political decision-making.

Know more about it: <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/strengthening-role-citizen-participation-local-agendas-iopd-annual-conference-and>

3.3.2 *"Social production of habitat: Promoting new partnership on housing between public administrations and local inhabitants"*

(11 – 12 July, Geneva)

As every year since 2014, the Switzerland-based organization Urbamonde hosted a meeting with several associations and grassroots movements to reflect together on the creation of an international network (a "platform") on the social production of housing. This would allow to enhance communication between practices and scale up this type of approach. The Committee Secretariat took interest in the work led by these organizations. It took this opportunity to inform those present of the work led by several cities around the world in the framework of the Cities for Adequate Housing Declaration, which pays major attention to the social co-production of housing. Signatory local authorities express their will to experiment with new housing production models and develop alliances with organized civil society around housing cooperatives or social land organizations, calling for the development of public-private partnerships with city dwellers.

Know more about it: <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/social-production-habitat-promoting-new-partnership-housing-between-public>

LEARNING

3.3.3 *“The City of Naples defends a policy for urban commons at the local level”: Participation in a study trip on urban renewal*

(4 – 7 July, Naples)

From 4 to 7 July, our Committee took part in a study trip organized by the Ecole de Rénovation Urbaine (France). The delegation was formed by representatives of Plaine Commune (co-chair of the Committee), local elected representatives and about thirty citizens from the “Conseils citoyens” of various French priority neighborhoods. The Committee met with the mayor of Naples, Luigi de Magistris, and visited several urban renewal projects taking place in this Italian city. It also debated with municipal and local civil society representatives. The city of Naples is one of the longest and most vivid examples of the Italian movement for the urban commons. After the support of its municipal authorities, Naples decided to rely on a commons-based policy as a way to strengthen the links with its own local civil society, as well as to counter the effects of austerity measures over public finances and increasing “commodification” trends around several areas of the city.

Know more about it : <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/defending-policy-urban-commons-local-level-naples>



3.2.1



3.3.2



3.3.4

3.3.4 *Participation in a summer school on “human rights at the local level” University of Utrecht - UCR Middelburg*

(June 18 – 22, Middelburg)

In June, a representative of the Committee’s Executive Secretariat took part in a Summer School on “Human Rights at the local level” held in Middelburg, the Netherlands. This course was given by Barbara Oomen, a renowned scholar in the field of human rights cities who is also a coordinator of the Cities of Refuge project. Cities of Refuge explores the role of cities in integrating refugees across Europe. This experience provided a better understanding of the work led by Dutch and Flemish cities in the field of human rights, such as the work led by the Mayor of Middelburg, Harald Bergmann, at the Council of Europe; Veere’s policies for accessibility for people with disabilities; or Ghent’s process towards becoming a sanctuary city through its refugee taskforce.

4.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION

2018 has allowed to strengthen the participation of members of the co-presidency and some of the most active local governments of the Committee. For example, Plaine Commune, Seine-Saint-Denis and Gwangju have carried out field visits within the framework of the Committee, while the strategic collaboration with cities in the field of human rights - such as Barcelona, Madrid or Gwangju - has been strengthened. The work around the waves of action on migration and, above all, on housing, has also enabled the Committee to deepen its cooperation with other cities, such as Montevideo, Sao Paulo, Amman, New York, Berlin, Strasbourg, Montreal or Seoul.

The reactivation of the city network for human rights, the right to the city and for peace and the organization of regional meetings in Europe, Africa and the WHRCF Forum in Gwangju have also enabled closer contacts with a large group of cities. This is the case of cities like Vienna, Seoul, Grigny and Granollers, to which should be added all those local and regional authorities with which contacts were established after the Barcelona and Marrakech workshops.

Throughout 2018, the Secretariat has sought to facilitate new adhesions to the network by renewing the online membership form. In order to better inform members, the Secretariat has also improved its communication channels. The Secretariat facilitated an informal meeting of members on the occasion of the UCLG World Council in Madrid, which was attended by representatives of the co-presidency, active members and partner organizations.

4.2 ARTICULATION WITH UCLG'S WORLD SECRETARIAT

Committee members' initiative has played an important role in promoting certain political messages within the framework of UCLG. For example, the Committee and UCLG have successfully articulated their initiatives in the fields of housing, jointly promoting the "Cities for Adequate Housing" Declaration after UCLG's Wave of Action. In the same vein, the Committee supported UCLG's "Cities for Migration" initiative. To a certain extent, numerous events organized by the Committee throughout 2018 - including the session "Right to housing: Joining the voices of local governments" (July); the WHRCF Gwangju Forum (October); or the Workshop of European Local Authorities for Human Rights (December) - can be seen as direct contributions to the messages of UCLG waves of action.

The Committee has also been able to foster the participation of members in the UCLG Policy Councils on the Right to the City held in Strasbourg and Madrid. Indeed, the Committee continues to play a key role in formulating messages on the right to the city and human rights in the framework of UCLG. In 2018, this relationship culminated in the participation of the Committee's co-chair, Patrick Braouezec, at January's UCLG annual retreat and November's World Council. The Committee's Secretariat maintained cooperative relations with the UCLG World Secretariat, including its Policy and Advocacy departments, the GOLD Observatory and the Learning and Communication teams.

4.3 ARTICULATION WITH OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD ORGANIZATION

The Committee's Secretariat has strengthened cooperation with other parts of the UCLG network related in one way or another to the work of the Committee. This is the case of the International Association of Educating Cities, the Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF), the Forum of Local Authorities of Periphery (FALP) and the UCLG Culture Committee. The Committee actively participated in the conference of the International Observatory for Participatory Democracy (OIDP) in Barcelona.

4.4 ARTICULATION WITH GLOBAL CIVIL SOCIETY

The Global Platform for the Right to the City (GPR2C) remained the main mechanism for cooperation with civil society. In this sense, various advocacy campaigns were co-organized between the Committee and the Platform, such as the one conducted during July's HLPF Forum in New York. A local government-civil society meeting was also held in Marrakech in November. Throughout 2018, the Committee also strengthened its cooperation with civil society initiatives such as World Enabled, which promotes accessible and inclusive cities; or Urbamonde, which seeks to agglutinate cooperative initiatives in the field of the social production of housing.



4.4 ARTICULATION WITH THE OHCHR AND THE UN ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Relations between member-local authorities of our Committee and the United Nations human rights system have tightened up in 2018 thanks to the consolidation of various initiatives and processes. On the occasion of the Committee's local government delegation to the WHRCF of Gwangju, various local governments were able to express their priorities to OHCHR's Deputy High, Kate Gilmore (see 1.1.2). This meeting was held in continuity to those held in 2017. They helped to strengthen relations between the Committee and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Know more: <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/members-committee-advance-dialogue-local-governments-role-promoting-and-protecting>

A close collaboration with UN Special Rapporteur Leilani Farha around The Shift campaign and the Cities for Adequate Housing Declaration allowed local government voices on the right to housing to be heard in the UN human rights system (see 1.3). Lastly, the Committee also co-organized a pilot training on international mechanisms for human rights protection aimed at local civil society, with the OHCHR and Barcelona's Department for Citizenship Rights and Diversity (see 3.2.1).

Know more: <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/training-local-civil-society-organizations-international-mechanisms-human-rights>

ANNEX

Assassination of Marielle Franco, Municipal Councilor of Rio de Janeiro: Statement by the Co-Chair of the Committee, Patrick Braouezec

15 March 2018

“Marielle Franco was 38 years old. She was one of the 32 black women elected councilors in Brazil capital cities. She was a sociologist, and was born in the favela of Maré, in Rio de Janeiro. In recent months, she had been committed to denouncing the growing violence of military operations in the favelas of Rio, particularly since the political crisis of August 2016.

LGBT activist, feminist and human rights defender, she fought against racial discrimination and gender violence. Marielle Franco was inscribed in a political vision derived from the Right to the City, defending city dwellers co-responsibility, popular education and social mobilization. Like us, she thought she could fight for greater social justice from public institutions.

On behalf of all local authorities gathered in the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights (CSIPDHR) of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), I condemn the coward murder of Marielle Franco. While thirty elected officials have been assassinated since August 2016 (including 20 in the state of Rio), this murder again poses a real threat to local democracy in Brazil. It cannot go unpunished, at the risk of increasing the law of “weapons” against popular commitment.

We send our condolences to her family, to her relatives, to her comrades and we join those who demand an immediate and rigorous investigation”

Patrick Braouezec, CCo-chair of the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights



Image source : Mídia Ninja

*The work of the Committee has been possible thanks to
the contributions of its active members:*

