



**UCLG**  
**Committee**

Social Inclusion  
Participatory Democracy  
and Human Rights



# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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

*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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## 1.0 THE 2019 UCLG WORLD CONGRESS

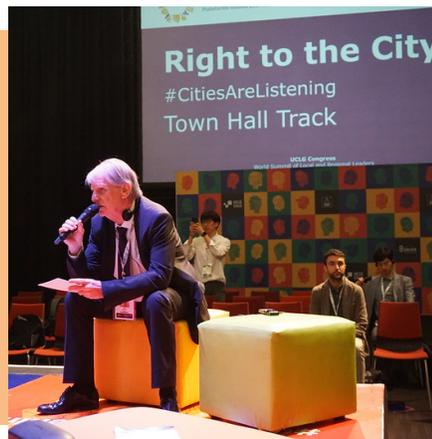
### A PLATFORM TO ADVANCE THE NETWORK'S STRATEGY ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RIGHT TO THE CITY

11-15 November, Durban - eThekweni (South Africa)

The 2019 edition of the UCLG Congress, held in the South African city of Durban from 11 to 15 November, provided local governments gathered in the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights (UCLG CSIPDHR) with a platform to advance many of their priorities and shared initiatives. Many events of the Congress offered meaningful windows of opportunity for UCLG constituency to debate on emerging topics in conjunction with civil society and human rights defenders.

In order to maximize their impact, several UCLG member-local governments and partners hosted a shared stand for the whole Congress called the “**Right to the City and Human Rights Hub**”. The Hub was convened by the UCLG CSIPDHR, the City of Gwangju, the International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (IOPD), the Mediterranean City-to-City Migration (MC2CM) project, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing and the Global Platform for the Right to the City (GPR2C).

A relevant **human rights** discussion took place on the second day of the Congress, gathering mayors, councilors and human rights directors from Brasília, Caldes de Montbuí, Gwangju, Libreville, Mexico City, Montevideo, Plaine Commune and Sousse, as well as a representative from the Global Platform for the Right to the City. This meeting allowed to explore emerging topics for the constituency – such as women rights, non-discrimination or participatory democracy – as well as priorities for networking.



The right to the city was addressed in this discussion as well, but enjoyed a specific focus in the “UCLG Town Hall” session organized by the GPR2C. In this context, several mayors and councilors were able to hold an open conversation with civil society representatives on topics such as financialization or equality. A document containing policy recommendations was drafted by the GPR2C as a follow-up.

In connection to these discussions, the IOPD organized a presentation of its forthcoming 2019 International Conference, to be held in Iztapalapa (Mexico). The Iztapalapa Conference focused on the connection between **participatory democracy** and the right to the city in metropolitan contexts. This topic was also addressed in the Congress by the Forum of Peripheral Local Authorities (FALP) in a dedicated session, which gave follow-up to discussions held by the FALP after its Jerusalem 2019 Forum.

**Housing** was also addressed in the Congress through a dedicated Special Session. This event gathered both members of the “Cities for Adequate Housing” Declaration and local governments that were not familiar to this initiative yet had an interest to debate on this issue. Key messages on the right to housing in the Declaration were strengthened and expanded. The event also welcomed the UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, Leilani Farha. Rapporteur Farha equally organized a local government consultation aimed at including the local government perspective to her last annual report.

**Migration** was addressed with particular interest by members and partners attending the Congress. Many sessions, especially those organized by the UCLG migration team and partners in the MC2CM project, were able to deliver on emerging priorities such as developing social inclusion mechanisms and to take action on non-discrimination. The Congress witnessed the second meeting of the UCLG Community of Practice on Migration, a Special Session on Migration and a presentation of the MC2CM project.

## **1.1 THEMATIC AXIS: HUMAN RIGHTS**

### **AN EXPANDING MOVEMENT STRENGTHENING LOCAL POLICY-MAKING AND GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

#### **1.1.1 Local governments from across the world meet with representatives of the UN Human Rights System to hold a global conversation about human rights**

*17 June, Geneva (Switzerland)*

More than 20 local governments from all over the world took part in the meeting of “Local Governments for Human Rights” organized in June by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the UCLG CSIPDHR. This was indeed an unprecedented opportunity, as local governments were able to sit in the same table and engage in a formal, cross-cutting conversation on human rights issues with United Nations representatives for the first time. This meeting is expected to be the first of many, as the voice, challenges and experience of local governments on human rights are increasingly acknowledged and their initiative supported by international institutions.

The meeting’s main goal was to better understand what are the challenges and what are the potentialities in looking more closely to local governments engagement with the human rights based approach. Mayors, councillors and local human rights officials could meet and discuss with more than 20 representatives from different regional and thematic divisions, special procedures and advisers of the OHCHR and the Human Rights Council, as well as human rights experts and civil society representatives.

**Know more :** <https://www.uclg-cisd.org/en/news/latest-news/local-governments-bring-human-rights-home-report-local-government-meeting-un-human>



### 1.1.2 *More than twenty local governments send their contribution to OHCHR's latest report on "Local Governments and Human Rights"*

Local authorities and human rights stakeholders responded positively to the call for contributions launched by the OHCHR aimed at nourishing its report on "Local Government and Human Rights". This process highlighted local governments commitment on human rights issues at both local and global levels, showing also the diversity and creativity of policies implemented locally to meet contemporary urban challenges and to promote respect for fundamental rights such as the right to housing, access to public services for all or the fight against socio-spatial inequalities and against all forms of discrimination.

The UCLG CSIPDHR played an active role in promoting local governments' contributions to this report and developed a common contribution. UCLG CSIPDHR members and partners' contributions included the following local governments and associations: Utrecht, Barcelona, Graz, Nuremberg, Madrid, Seoul, Vienna, Gipuzkoa, Grigny, the Indonesian local authorities of Wonosobo, Pakpak Bharat, Serdang Bedagai, Jember and Palu via INFID, Montreal, Gwangju, Goicoechea, Naples, São Paulo, Terrassa and Stockholm, Malmö, Hedemora and Klippan via SALAR and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights.

*Know more :* <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/more-twenty-local-governments-have-sent-their-contributions-un-ohchrs-report-%E2%80%9Clocal>

#### *Human rights-impact assessment of economic reform policies*

*28 February, Geneva (Switzerland)*

*Juan Pablo Bohoslavsky, UN Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of human rights, presented in February a guiding principles proposal on "human rights impact assessment of economic reforms" (Report A/HRC/40/57). Our Committee contributed to the process of elaboration of these guiding principles through its Secretariat participation in an expert meeting held earlier in 2018.*

#### *Human Rights and Global Agendas at the local level: A Stakeholders' Dialogue*

*8 March, Geneva (Switzerland)*

*A representative from the Committee's Secretariat took part in a Side Event held in Geneva aimed at providing inputs to OHCHR's forthcoming report on "Local Governments and Human Rights". The meeting allowed to take stock of the progress made in regards to the recognition process of local governments role in the promotion and protection of human rights (launched in 2015). This side-event gathered representatives from human rights organizations and UN officials.*

### **1.1.3 *The Committee addresses local governments' contribution to the realization of inclusive and peaceful societies by 2030 (SDG 16)***

Our Committee took an active role in UCLG and global discussions on SDG 16 localization throughout the first half of 2019. Through the participation of its members and its Secretariat, the Committee stressed the key links between the human rights-based approach and the specific nature of SDG 16 targets at a local level – that is, realization of inclusive and peaceful societies and open and accessible institutions – alongside raising awareness on a wealth of local practices promoted by members.

Tunis and Rome hosted two preparatory events for the 2019 edition of the HLPF. These events were sponsored by the UN and provided a meaningful space for local governments to articulate shared views and present their practices on these topics. The event held in Tunis was focused on local governments' contribution, whereas the one held in Rome brought together a wider coalition of stakeholders and allowed to reinforce local government key messages in preparation of the HLPF.

Our Committee also contributed to the local and regional government constituency HLPF strategy on SDG 16 by taking an active role in the drafting process of the Global Taskforce annual report "Towards the Localization of the SDGs" which was presented during the HLPF. Various practices led by Committee members were listed in the report's dedicated section on SDG 16.

*Know more : <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/assessing-local-governments%E2%80%99-contribution-realization-inclusive-and-peaceful>*

### **1.1.4 *Reimagining Human Rights Cities: Gwangju hosts the ninth edition of the World Human Rights Cities Forum - WHRCF***

*30 September - 2 October, Gwangju (South Korea)*

On Fall 2019, Gwangju became once more the beating heart of the global human rights cities movement after hosting the 9th edition of the World Human Rights Cities Forum (WHRCF). In its 2019 edition, local governments, civil society and international participants to the Forum assessed the latest policy developments in local human rights protection models, as well as the increasing interaction between local authorities and the UN human rights system. The UCLG CSIPDHR Committee and UCLG ASPAC took an active role in the organization and development of sessions throughout the Forum.

Throughout the Forum, representatives from Mexico City, Utrecht, Vienna, Nuremberg and Jember presented innovative experiences in areas such as fight against hate speech, intercultural dialogue or women rights. Ariana's mayor Fadhel Moussa shared the latest developments in Tunisia's democratization process. Many sessions throughout the Forum - such as the blended learning course held by UCLG ASPAC and RWI or a training event organized by the Global Platform for the Right to the City (GPR2C) - stressed the interconnection between 2030 and human rights cities agendas.

A special session on the right to housing in Asia organized also allowed to have a local government debate on this issue, thanks to the participation of representatives from Ulaanbaatar, Taipei and Vienna, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing team as well as numerous civil society organizations.

*Know more : <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/reimagining-%E2%80%9Chuman-rights-cities%E2%80%9D-gwangju-hosts-new-edition-its-world-human-rights>*



### 1.1.5 *The UCLG CSIPDHR takes part in the 2019 Festival HAM: A meeting point on local human rights issues in Indonesia*

*18 - 21 November, Jember Regency (Indonesia)*

Indonesia’s Jember Regency hosted last November the sixth edition of the National Festival of Cities for Human Rights and Social Justice - HAM Festival. On this year’s edition, the festival brought together nearly a thousand participants from Indonesian civil society and many organizations working on human rights issues in Asia both at the local and national levels. On this occasion, representatives from Jember’s Regency shared with the world its initiatives in the field of human rights protection. This includes fighting against poverty, promoting access to health for the most vulnerable by launching a new fleet of ambulances, guaranteeing women’s rights by fighting against forced marriages, enhancing access to drinking water, improving access to decent work...

The Festival was organized by our partner organization INFID. It also hosted several dialogues and knowledge exchange workshops on human rights between local and regional authorities at the national and international levels. A session was dedicated to the international movement of “Cities for Human Rights” where the City of Gwangju shared its experience as “Human Rights City” in connection to the events of 1980 (Gwangju Uprising). Our Committee shared the work carried out within UCLG on human rights and the right to the city, showing the diversity of initiatives led by members around the world.

*Know more : <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/our-committee-takes-part-2019-festival-ham-held-jember-regency-meeting-point-local>*



### *Terrassa holds a European Congress on Local practices in Intersectionality*

*13 February, Terrassa (Spain)*

*The City of Terrassa organized last February a European Congress on “Intersectionality in local policies: experiences, tools and debates”. As a leading city in the implementation of the European Charter for Human Rights in the City, Terrassa aimed at gathering local experiences in the field of intersectionality from all across Europe, presented by city representatives and practitioners working in the field of equality, as well as civil society.*

### **1.1.6 *The UCLG CSIPDHR takes part in an expert meeting on human rights cities organized by the European Union's Fundamental Rights Agency***

*27 - 28 November, Brussels (Belgium)*

Last November, a group of local government representatives and human rights experts gathered in Brussels to discuss how to strengthen the local governments for human rights' movement across the European Union. The meeting was convened by the EU Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA), which intends to launch a common "framework of commitments" on this issue, with a view to better identify and understand the movement of local governments for human rights at a European level. This includes processes, tools and public policies implemented. This process also intends to strengthen a shared strategy to achieve larger and better recognition of these local commitments by EU institutions.

Participants to the meeting stressed the need to better recognize the efforts made by local authorities on this issue; perhaps by creating some sort of human rights city "label". They also supported the need to build cities' capacities when it comes to implementation and knowledge exchange, all of which can result into an enhanced framework for regional networking. The organizing institution (FRA) will follow up on this meeting in the coming months, bringing together local authorities and relevant organizations in Europe to address more closely several issues like the above-mentioned "framework of commitments" or the human rights cities "label" initiative. The UCLG CSIPDHR will continue to take part in this process and to inform its members, encouraging their participation as well.

*Know more : <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/csipdhr-takes-part-expert-meeting-human-rights-cities-organized-european-union%E2%80%99s>*

## **1.2 THEMATIC AXIS: RIGHT TO THE CITY SHOWCASING TRANSFORMATORY PRACTICES ON PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY AND METROPOLITAN GOVERNANCE**

### **1.2.1 *Participatory democracy to place peripheries at the centre: The IOPD addresses the Right to the City in its Iztapalapa 2019 Conference***

*7 - 10 Decembre, Mexico City (Mexico)*

The International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (IOPD) held its 2019 Annual Conference in Iztapalapa, Mexico City. Hundreds of participants, both from Iztapalapa and other parts of the world, took part in the main meeting point on participatory democracy and local governments worldwide. This edition saw a remarkable level of political commitment, seeking to connect transformative participation practices to human rights and right to the city-related debates, as well as to amplify the voice of residents living in peripheral, working-class neighbourhoods. It proposed alternatives to the financialization of cities, the growth of inequalities and the ecological crisis by developing a transformative narrative and a set of new means to defend social and territorial justice hand in hand with inhabitants.

Our Committee took an active role in the development of initiatives throughout the Conference, seeking to strengthen its partnership with the OIOP and share the work of its members in this context. The session "Co-creating public policies for women's rights: Violence, public space and equality" was organized in partnership with Metropolis, gathering representatives from Iztapalapa, Mexico City and Sousse, as well as a vide intervention by the Seine-Saint-Denis. In coordination with the Forum of

Peripheral Local Authorities, the Committee organized the session “Peripheries at the centre of the Metropolis: Strengthening democratic participation through metropolitan municipalism” with the mayors of Iztapalapa, Clara Brugada, Matola (Mozambique), Calisto Moisses Cossa, and Valongo (Portugal), José Luis Ribeiro, as well as the Deputy Mayor of Nanterre, Hassan Hmani. On the Conference last day, the Committee also organized a debate gathering local practices that were giving an answer, through popular participation, to contexts of protest in favour of human rights currently taking place throughout the world, bringing together the experiences of local contexts in Chile, Tunisia, Colombia and Spain.

*Know more :* <https://www.uclg-cisd.org/en/news/latest-news/participatory-democracy-place-peripheries-centre-iopd-addresses-right-city-its-2019>



### 1.2.2 *The Olympic and Paralympic Games as an opportunity for an inclusive urban transformation at the metropolitan level: Saint Denis and Montreuil Seminar*

*2 - 3 July, Saint Denis and Montreuil (France)*

On July, the Committee and its co-chair-local governments of Seine Saint Denis and Plaine Commune organized an international seminar on “Inclusive and Solidary Olympic Games”. Held in the French cities of Saint Denis and Montreuil, this seminar aimed at providing a space for reflection over the future 2024 edition of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, which will be held in the city of Paris and its metropolitan area. Achieving an inclusive legacy, where the Olympic Games offer an opportunity to transform an already diverse territory marked by strong social and spatial inequalities, was the guiding question throughout discussions, which gathered among its participants’ many former Olympic seats.

*“The Games can’t be made without our territories and its people: They need us to be successful”. “Engaging all stakeholders in the preparation process should not be seen as a bonus, but a key condition for success”. “Achieving a sustainable legacy is our priority and we start building this legacy now”.* These were some of the key ideas expressed by Stéphane Troussel and Patrick Braouezec, hosts of the event and presidents of Seine Saint Denis and Plaine Commune respectively. To their point of view, Paris 2024 has to go beyond inclusiveness, but also rethink the complex relations between central and peripheral territories in the hosting metropolis. According to Mr. Troussel, “we can’t realize Grand Paris’ vision without creating new centralities. Paris 2024 can help reaffirm the renewed centrality of our territories”; an essential condition for rendering polycentrism and the right to the city concrete, according to Mr. Braouezec.

*Know more :* <https://www.uclg-cisd.org/en/news/latest-news/olympic-and-paralympic-games-opportunity-inclusive-urban-transformation>



### 1.2.3 *The Right to the City for Women: Open letter by the Mayors of Barcelona, Mexico City and Montreal on International Women’s Day*

8 March

The UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights published, on the occasion of 2019 Women’s Day (March 8), an open letter signed by the mayors of Barcelona, Mexico City and Montreal. It aimed at providing inputs for exploring a shared strategy on Women Rights and Women’s Right to the City in the framework of the world organization of local governments.

#### ***Open letter on 8 March 2019, International Women’s Day***

*“The protection and defense of women’s rights remain a major issue in our society. In recent years, discussions on the right to equality have gained visibility in the public debate and recognition of the place of women in our societies has also increased.*

*Yet, gender inequalities continue to profoundly impact our cities in areas such as poverty, division of labour, domestic violence, vulnerability in the public sphere or limits in democratic participation.*

*As elected women at the head of big cities, we are proud to continue the fight for women’s rights recognition started by previous generations. Inspired by our experiences as women and our personal convictions, we intend to help build a transformative vision of our cities. We want our cities to progress so that they become more just, inclusive, democratic and welcoming to all our fellow citizens.*

*In making decisions that guide our public policies, we have a daily impact in women’s rights in our territories. Indeed, gender inequalities are reflected in one’s (in)ability to*

*access the goods and services, including public services. It is our responsibility to act together to achieve substantive equality and to encourage women’s active participation in local social, economic, political and cultural life.*

*We are concerned about women’s place in the spheres of professional and economic development, as well as in regards to their access to basic services and housing, the place they hold in urban planning or safety in urban transportation.*

*The progress made in recent years has been made possible thanks to the solidarity of many mayors around the world, as well as through the dialogue and alliance between local authorities and civil society.*

*United Cities and Governments (UCLG) and its Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights will soon launch a campaign to promote the right to the city for women. We invite you to join the cause to enhance women’s rights in cities”.*

By **Claudia Sheinbaum** (Head of Government of Mexico City), **Valérie Plante** (Mayor of Montréal) and **Ada Colau** (Mayor of Barcelona)

### 1.2.3 *International Seminar of the Peripheral Local Authorities Forum (FALP) 2019 – Final Declaration on the Right to the City in Metropolitan contexts*

24 July, Aizaria, Jerusalem (Palestine)

The FALP network hosted its biannual Forum in the Palestinian city of Aizaria, in the periphery of Jerusalem. This meeting gathered local authorities and civil society from the Palestinian territories as well as from across the world. The Forum addressed the right to the city framework in connection to the context of metropolization and territorial inequalities. The Committee counted with the participation of Committee representatives, which contributed to developing the Forum's Final Declaration:

*Know more :* <https://www.uclg-cisd.org/en/news/latest-news/international-seminar-falp-2019-final-declaraton-aizaria-jerusalem>

#### ***Final declaration of the international seminar held in Jerusalem***

*“Local authorities present at the Seminar “Right to the City and Access to Metropolitan Areas for All” held in the Palestinian city of Aizaria (Metropolitan Area of Jerusalem) recall, more than ever, that today’s mostly urbanized planet cannot accept any form of urban apartheid.*

*Be it in the form of concrete; caused by money, colonization or geopolitics; be it visible or invisible: No wall, no ghetto, no colony, no gated community, can be accepted in our metropolitan areas. It is the dignity of inhabitants’ life, their capacity to decide on their present and their future, both individual and collective, and to decide over their city, what is at stake here.*

*Our commitment towards the “Right to the City” is based on understanding the City as a space to exercise citizenship, a place for the “good living”, to access individual and collective rights. Our commitment is focused on inhabitants’ life in our cities and the metropolitan areas which they share.*

*We are convinced that, by advancing in this direction, on the basis of our proximity to citizens and by developing local democracy, we will be able to tackle multiple forms of segregation; be it urban, social, space, political, colonial or ethnic.*

*The experience and the commitments of the city of Aizaria, in the specificity of the metropolitan area of Jerusalem, gives a concrete sense to these challenges. Challenges*

*the “Right to the City” arise with a great acuity in this context and, more particularly, in East Jerusalem.*

*We commit to make the challenges experienced by our Palestinian partners of Aizaria be known in the framework of the global municipal movement in order to uphold international law.*

*More than ever, our urban planet needs to hear the voice of peripheral local authorities to reaffirm metropolitan areas as spaces of solidarity, democracy, inclusiveness, sustainability and polycentrism.*

*The Peripheral Cities Forum of UCLG commits to join the efforts in promoting the New Urban Agenda and acknowledges the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations as an opportunity to reduce inequalities in each one of our territories.*

*The Peripheral Cities Forum of UCLG will continue to promote this agenda firmly. It will seek to make the experiences be known and practices shared in spaces of networking. The Forum also commits to engage in a dialogue with all stakeholders present in metropolitan areas with a view to uphold the Right to the City and to the Metropolis as a fundamental and intangible condition for citizens’ life dignity.*

*The voice of the Peripheral Cities Forum of UCLG will be carried in many international events like the World Congress of UCLG in Durban (South Africa) next November.*

*And we recall that the next appointment for all local authorities in metropolitan areas will be in Pikine (Senegal) in January 2020, on the occasion of the next edition of the Peripheral Cities Forum of UCLG”.*

## 1.3 THEMATIC AXIS: RIGHT TO HOUSING ADVANCING THE “CITIES FOR ADEQUATE HOUSING” DECLARATION AND “THE SHIFT” MOVEMENT

### 1.3.1 *Multistakeholder dialogue on the “Cities for Adequate Housing” Declaration: What challenges at the European level?*

*5 March, Barcelona (Spain)*

In early March 2019, the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights, the CIDOB Global Cities programme and the City of Barcelona organized a multistakeholder dialogue on how to provide a follow-up to the Cities for Adequate Housing Declaration at the European level. On an initial round of discussions, eight signatory municipalities of the Declaration, European Union officials, experts and civil society representatives assessed how to promote the messages of the Declaration towards the European Commission through different advocacy initiatives. In the second part of the event, local government representatives focused on the contents of the Declaration and explored shared priorities on the basis of their different local contexts and approaches to the subject.

The meeting gathered representatives from Strasbourg, Vienna, Barcelona, Terrassa, Cascais, Bologna, London and Lisbon. Metropolitan authorities from Strasbourg Eurométropole and the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona were also present at the event, as well as representatives from the Provincial Council of Barcelona. All of these local governments are members of the “Cities for Adequate Housing” Declaration. This initiative was intertwined to discussions held at Eurocities Working Group on Housing, the annual conference of which was held last March 20 and 21.

*Know more :* <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/multistakeholder-dialogue-“cities-adequate-housing”-declaration-what-challenges>

### 1.3.2 *Fostering the alliance between local governments and civil society on community-led housing*

*31 Mai – 8 June, Geneva (Switzerland) and Lyon (France)*

From May 31 to June 3, the city of Geneva hosted the annual meeting of the “CoHabitat network”: A civil society initiative gathering community-led housing organizations and allies from across the world, working to secure housing rights through collective, non-speculative and people-led solutions. The meeting welcomed representatives from many members of the Global Platform for the Right to the City and was held in connection to the Social Housing Festival of Lyon (June 4-8), which saw the presentation of many inspiring initiatives on the right to housing. Our Committee participated actively in both events with a view to build new synergies around the “Cities for Adequate Housing” Declaration.

In the framework of the Geneva meeting, our Committee’s coordinator facilitated the public round table “Housing as Commons, not a Commodity: Links between Municipal Action and Community-Led Housing”. Hosted with the support of the City of Geneva and the Charles Léopold Mayer foundation, this meeting gathered local authorities and civil society from Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia.

*Know more :* <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/fostering-alliance-between-local-governments-and-civil-society-community-led>

### **1.3.3 *The Committee contributes to the last report of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing***

By Fall 2019, our Committee and the UCLG GOLD Department developed a joint contribution to Leilani Farha's last report to the Human Rights Council as UN Special Rapporteur. This report sought to propose new "Guidelines for the Implementation of the Right to Housing". Our joint contribution draws on local government-led practices, as well as key messages, challenges and priorities presented by signatory cities of the "Cities for Adequate Housing" Declaration over the last two years. It also collects several of the main findings of the UCLG Report "Rethinking Housing Policies: harnessing local innovation to address the global housing crisis" co-produced by an international group of housing experts and the UCLG Research Department.

*Know more :* <https://www.uclg-cisd.org/en/news/latest-news/new-set-un-guidelines-implementation-right-housing-has-been-presented-special>

### **1.3.4 *The UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing publishes a new report on « The Right to Housing and Access to Justice »***

*4 March, Geneva (Switzerland)*

On March, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing presented to the 40th session of the Human Rights Council her latest report on "Access to justice as a means of realizing the right to housing" (A/HRC/40/61). The report argues that "the global housing crisis is rooted in a crisis in access to justice because without access to justice, housing is not properly recognized, understood or addressed as a human right", and defines 10 principles states should respect to guarantee the right to housing. The Special Rapporteur also presents various initiatives taken by local authorities to promote the right to housing - mainly the UCLG Declaration "Cities for Adequate Housing".

*Know more :* <https://www.uclg-cisd.org/en/news/latest-news/un-special-rapporteur-right-housing-publishes-new-report-«-right-housing-and-access>

## **[ Right to Housing: Also in this annual report ]**

*Section 1.1.4 - WHRCF Forum: **Special Session on the Right to Housing in Asia**  
(30 Septembre - 2 October, Gwangju)*

*Section 1.0 - UCLG World Congress: **Special Session on the Future of Housing**  
(11 - 15 November, Durban)*

*Section 2.1 - Learning Workshop: **Strengthening Inhabitants' Participation in Slum Upgrading Processes** (27 March - 2 April, Medellín)*

## **1.4 THEMATIC AXIS: MIGRATION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION** *Fostering city-to-city learning and knowledge exchange on how to advance rights-based local policies on migration*

### 1.3.1 *Biennial Cities in Transition: Local governments gather in Grenoble to reaffirm their commitment to become welcoming and solidary territories*

9 - 16 March, Grenoble (France)

The Biennial “Villes en Transition” (Cities in Transition) took place last March in Grenoble. This important event for local governments and civil society working on the issue of the ecological transition hosted a great number of debates, conferences and cultural events on a wide range of social and environmental issues. On the second edition of such forum, a great attention was paid to the challenges and opportunities regarding migration from a local perspective.

As a matter of fact, the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights took part in the organization of various events on this topic, and organized an international delegation of local governments formed by representatives from Sao Paulo, Nador, Valencia and Barcelona. In an open debate, those cities debated and exchanged perspectives and experiences on this topic with the French cities of Strasbourg, Briançon, Grenoble, Echirolles, the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region and several solidarity networks like the recently formed ANVITA - French Association of Welcoming Cities and Territories.

*Know more :* <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/biennial-cities-transition-grenoble-reaffirms-its-commitment-welcoming-and-solidary>



### [ Migration and social inclusion: Also in this annual report ]

*Section 2.3 - Peer learning on local government and civil society cooperation to protect migrants' right to the city (25 - 26 June, Sfax)*

*Section 2.4 - Webinar on Local Governments and “Children on the Move in Urban Territories: Including Unaccompanied Minors” (31 July)*

## 2.1 *Workshop on the right to the city: Strengthening inhabitants' participation in slum upgrading processes through urban story-telling*

27 March - 2 April, Medellin (Colombia)

A representative of our Committee's Secretariat participated on spring in a workshop held in Medellín (Colombia) on transmedia narratives and story-telling with a focus on slum upgrading. This workshop was held in the framework of the project "COiNVITE", aimed at testing innovative methodologies for urban learning and city-making based on story-telling, giving a major importance to the participation of inhabitants and grassroots associations. This workshop was organized by researcher Catalina Ortiz (UCL Development Planning Unit) and counted with the participation of the city of Medellín, as well as from the Global Platform for the Right to the City, the Habitat International Coalition, the Latin American Office of UN Habitat, Cities Alliance and other social movements from Medellín and Latin America.

*Know more :* <https://www.uclg-cisd.org/en/news/latest-news/strengthening-inhabitants%E2%80%99-participation-slum-upgrading-processes-through-urban>

## 2.2 *Tackling discrimination in order to build inclusive cities: Organizing a Policy Lab on the Right to the City in the Local Democracy Academy*

10 - 15 June, Umeå (Sweden)

The Swedish city of Umeå hosted in June the first edition of the "Local Democracy Academy": An international academic event organized by the International Centre for Local Democracy (ICLD) in partnership with UCLG. Our Committee held in this context a policy lab on the issue of non-discrimination at the local level, which allowed to present transformative practices led by member-local governments in a dialogue with researchers and civil society representatives from across the world. For two days, local government representatives, researchers and civil society stakeholders from countries like Sweden, India, Spain, Brazil, Ghana and the United States participated in the policy lab. Several innovative practices led by member-local governments were presented and analysed by participants.

*Know more :* <https://www.uclg-cisd.org/en/news/latest-news/tackling-discrimination-building-inclusive-cities-policy-lab-right-city-ume%C3%A5>

## 2.3 *Mediterranean Cities and Civil Society Meet in Sfax for Migrants' Right to the City: The UCLG CSIPDHR contributes to MC2CM Sfax peer learning*

25 - 26 June, Sfax (Tunisia)

On 25 and 26 June, the Mediterranean City to City Migration (MC2CM) project brought together more than seventy participants in a peer learning event on mechanisms for cooperation between local governments and civil society in the field of migration. More than twenty cities attended this sub-regional meeting in Sfax. For the first time in the framework of the MC2CM project, the sub regional event held in Sfax brought together a group of civil society representatives closely involved with the work of cities in the

field of migration. Over two days of activities and discussions, participants reflected together on the importance of articulating in a coherent and solid manner the shared objectives of all actors involved in the protection of the Right to the City of migrants. Five sessions and one technical visit explored the opportunities and challenges of working together with actors from organized civil society at the local level.

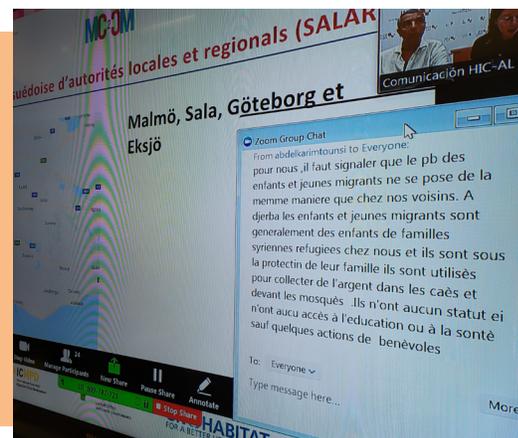
*Know more :* <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/mediterranean-cities-and-civil-society-meet-sfax-migrants%E2%80%99-right-city>

## 2.4 Webinar “Children on the Move in Urban Territories: Including Unaccompanied Minors” organized in the context of the MC2CM Project

31 July

In the framework of the MC2CM project, the UCLG migration team and the CSIPDHR Committee organized a webinar on local government challenges and initiatives regarding the social inclusion of unaccompanied migrant minors. This webinar aimed at offering a space for debate on this subject, as this is a major challenge shared by many cities within the network. The webinar sought to better understand the priorities, diverse situations and actions carried out on this subject by local governments and civil society in the Euro-Mediterranean region and beyond. The areas explored ranged from access to housing to non-discrimination, education or human rights safeguarding, as well as cooperation between different layers of governments and civil society stakeholders.

*Know more :* <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/webinar-%E2%80%9Cchildren-move-urban-territories-including-unaccompanied-minors%E2%80%9D>



## 2.5 Knowledge management: Developing reports on the CSIPDHR key thematic priorities, based on members’ practices and key messages

In 2019, the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights coordinated or took part in the development of various reports gathering practices on thematic areas that were close to the ones focusing the advocacy and learning strategies of the network.

Early in the year, the Committee coordinated a joint contribution by member-local governments on the OHCHR’s 2019 Report on “**Local Governments and Human Rights**”. This initiative allowed

to showcase both the key messages as well as the most advance policy innovations led by local authorities on human rights issues, such as non-discrimination, gender equality or citizen participation in public affairs. It also contained more than twenty direct contributions by local governments.

*Know more :* <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/more-twenty-local-governments-have-sent-their-contributions-un-ohchrs-report-%E2%80%9Clocal>

The Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments contribution to the HLPF 2019, which addressed with a particular emphasis SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13 and 16, allowed UCLG CSIPDHR local governments to take part in the “**Localizing SDGs**” reporting process oriented towards the UN and UN-member states. Such report was coordinated by UCLG’s research department (UCLG GOLD). **SDGs 10 and 16** were addressed with specific emphasis by Committee members’ and partners, coming up with a relevant collection of practices and key messages that are now fully available in the GTF 2019 HLPF Report.

*Know more :* [https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Localization2019\\_EN.pdf](https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Localization2019_EN.pdf)

The webinar on **local governments and unaccompanied migrant minors**, co-organized in July by the UCLG migration team, the UCLG CSIPDHR, UNICEF and UN Habitat, was also a good occasion to identify recent practices put in place by cities and regions on this topic over the last years. The topics covered were wide and relevant to many social inclusion and participatory democracy issues the Committee had been covering in the past. To participating cities, this exercise offered a myriad of policy innovation ideas targeting an emerging challenge in the local governance of migration. The UCLG CSIPDHR later presented these practices in the annual meeting of the ECCAR network.

*Know more :* [https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/sites/default/files/Preparatory%20Document\\_%20Practices%20on%20Unaccompanied%20Minors.pdf](https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/sites/default/files/Preparatory%20Document_%20Practices%20on%20Unaccompanied%20Minors.pdf)

By fall 2019, a call for contributions by UN Special Rapporteur Leilani Farha also allowed the UCLG CSIPDHR and the UCLG GOLD teams to identify leading practices by members and key messages shared in past meetings around the Cities for Housing Declaration. This process resulted in a shared contribution to Leilani Farha’s last report on “**Guiding Principles for the Implementation of the Right to Housing**”, which showcased local governments’ key role in housing governance – addressing both the challenges faced as well as recent, locally-led policy innovations tackling the global housing crisis

*Know more :* <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/sites/default/files/Guidelines%20for%20the%20implementation%20of%20the%20right%20to%20adequate%20housing.pdf>

## 2.6 **The UCLG CSIPDHR Pulse: Interviews to member-local governments covering innovative initiatives and public policies**

### **Barcelona’s Methodological Guide on its local “Human Rights City” Model**

*Barcelona has recently published a methodological guide gathering the main lessons learnt by the Catalan capital in terms of developing a consistent municipal system for human rights protection and promotion. A myriad of examples and recommendations on strategic planning, policy design, implementation and evaluation for municipal human rights policy-making are included in the guide.*

*Know more :* <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/barcelona-has-published-methodological-guide-shares-city%E2%80%99s-experience-towards>

### ***Bologna provides social housing and fights evictions through solidarity and cooperativism***

Bologna is a campus city of 390,000 inhabitants, home to around 35,000 students each year. Tourism is on the rise, and so is the number of touristic apartments in the historical city center. The need for social housing currently affects no less than 6,000 people that are living on or below the poverty line. Current prices prevent many from accessing adequate housing, and are strongly exposed to marginalization and social exclusion. The right to housing is a fundamental right that must be adequately protected, and Bologna is committed to do so through a diverse range of mechanisms, which match the increasingly complex housing challenges posed by the social and demographic changes in the city.

**Know more :** <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/bologna-providing-social-housing-and-fighting-evictions-through-solidarity-and>

### ***Grigny calls local governments to defend the right to peace through their local action***

Philippe Rio is the mayor of Grigny – a small town on the outskirts of Paris marked by strong inequalities compared to the richest districts of the French capital. Mayor Rio commitment to defend social and spatial justice for city dwellers of peripheral cities has led him to become an active member of the French association “Ville & Banlieue” (City and Periphery). Mayor Rio is also a recognized defender of the right to peace, and the current president of the French Association of Mayors for Peace. Our Committee Secretariat interviewed him to know more about how does he approach the link between human rights and the right to peace, and why he believes it is important for local governments to defend the right to peace at the international level.

**Know more :** <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/grigny's-mayor-call-local-governments-commit-defend-right-peace-grassroots-global>



### ***A look at Vienna's human rights system through the eyes of its human rights commissioner***

Five years after launching its own local process aimed at assuming a more active role in human rights policies as municipal administration, Vienna has become an inspiring example of “Human Rights City” in Europe and beyond. At present, the city counts with consolidated policies, institutions and laws that actively promote human rights through the actions of its local government. The UCLG CSIPDHR had the chance to talk to Shams Asadi, Vienna’s Human Rights Commissioner, in order to know more about her city’s approach to the human rights city vision, as well as on how to foster city-to-city cooperation on this topic.

**Know more :** <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/look-vienna's-human-rights-system-interview-human-rights-commissioner-shams-asadi>

### ***Montevideo presents “Fincas”: An urban renewal project aimed at transforming abandoned properties into housing initiatives with a social function***

*Through carrying out innovative and transformatory actions at different levels (zoning, regulation, cooperation with social movements), Montevideo’s Fincas Project recovers abandoned properties at the heart of the city for the municipality’s Cartera de Tierras (Land Portfolio) to later transform them into common goods with a social function for the city (social housing, housing cooperatives, shelter centers for people who are homeless, social centers for LGBT people...). Fincas is based on a consolidated cooperation scheme between Montevideo’s municipality, civil society, academia and the Uruguayan national government.*

**Know more :** <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/montevideo-presents-%E2%80%9Cfincas%E2%80%9D-urban-renewal-project-aimed-transforming-abandoned>

### ***Móstoles is leading an ambitious strategy for the right to housing at the local level***

*The Spanish city of Móstoles is a good example of the numerous initiatives taken by municipal authorities across the world to protect and realize the right to housing. Móstoles suffered harshly the effects of the economic crisis that began in 2008 and still continues today. Faced with an unprecedented housing emergency, an evictions’ crisis and a hike in the number of homeless people, Móstoles set in motion a comprehensive strategy to reverse the situation and protect the right to housing. At the current moment, the set of actions carried out by the municipality ranges from direct support for families at risk of being evicted to thoroughly promoting social housing or defending the rights of homeless people.*

**Know more :** <https://www.uclg-cisdp.org/en/news/latest-news/m%C3%B3stoles-spain-leading-ambitious-strategy-right-housing-and-rights-homeless-people>

# STRENGTHENING THE NETWORK 03

In 2019, members and partners strengthened their participation in the Committee in a significant manner. 34 new admission requests have been received, resulting into 21 new members and partners joining the Committee. UCLG CSIPDHR co-presidents have been engaged in various advocacy processes alongside other active members. They also hosted joint events like the Saint Denis Seminar on Inclusive Olympic Games or the “Human Rights and Right to the City Hub” at the UCLG World Congress. Many new local governments have taken part in a UCLG CSIPDHR facilitated events for the first time this 2019.

UCLG CSIPDHR members and active local governments have also found in the Committee a platform to form alliances and maximize their impact in UCLG and other global governance spaces. Several members have taken part in UCLG statutory events, such as the World Councils and Executive Bureaus, as well as to coordination events (UCLG Retreat and Campus) and synchronization efforts in key topics (such as migration, housing or the localizing SDGs strategy). The UCLG CSIPDHR secretariat has closely worked together with different areas of the World Secretariat, such as UCLG GOLD or UCLG Policy.



The relationship between local governments and CSIPDHR on one side and UN human rights representatives on the other has been strengthened too. UN representatives have learnt more about the advanced level of policy development on human rights led by local governments worldwide. Events such as the local government meeting in Geneva (17 June), the joint contribution to OHCHR’s Report or the 2019 WHRCF have been key in this regard. This cooperation scheme has also benefited from the partnership between local governments and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Housing, as well as from UCLG’s focus on SDG 16 this 2019 – after the HLPF process and UNDP engagement on this issue.

The alliance between the UCLG CSIPDHR and the Global Platform for the Right to the City has continued to be a defining feature of the network’s strategy on the right to the city and human rights. Many members took part in the “Town Hall on the Right to the City” dialogue held at the UCLG World Congress, which was facilitated by GRPR2C members. The Committee also strengthened its relationship with other initiatives led by civil society or academia on issues like urban equality, housing or urban storytelling.

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



