

Circular 83

UCLG Committees and Working Groups

Barcelona, 11th of November 2014

Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights

The United Nations reflects on the role of local government with regards to human rights

Dear members,

The Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights of UCLG is pleased to inform you that the progress report on **"The role of local government in the promotion and protection of human rights"** is already available. The document has been drafted by the [United Nations Human Rights Council Advisory Committee](#) with the support, among others, of UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion.

We would like to draw your attention to some of the ideas mentioned in this report:

- **Political, fiscal and administrative decentralization** is essential for localizing democracy and human rights (paragr.11, page 4; paragr. 27-28, pages 7-8).
- **Local government** should be involved in the **drafting of national human rights strategies and policies** (paragr. 26, page 7).
- **UCLG** has greatly contributed to establishing **a human rights global normative framework** through the adoption of the [Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City](#) (paragr. 22, p. 6).
- The [European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City](#) (2000) and the **World Human Rights Cities Forum** (Gwangju, South Korea), co-organized by the Committee on Social Inclusion, are recognized as key tools for localizing human rights (paragr. 39, page 11; paragr. 46, page 13).
- The **right to the city** is mentioned in the document, together with some tools which have been developed to take it forward such as [Brazil's City Statute](#) (in Portuguese) (2001), the [World Charter for the Right to the City](#) (2005) and the [Mexico City Charter for the Right to the City](#) (in Spanish) (2010) (paragr. 43, page 12).
- International city networks such as **UCLG** can play a key role in developing **toolkits**, foster **research**, provide opportunities for **peer-to-peer learning** and create **communities for action** (paragr. 54, page 15).

The Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights of UCLG welcomes the work of the United Nations Human Rights Council Advisory Committee and

encourages them to move it forward in close dialogue with local governments, as well as with local government organizations and networks representing them.

For more information, please see [Circular 78 of the Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights](#) of UCLG.

Sincerely,

The UCLG World Secretariat

on behalf of the Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights of UCLG

Please click on the links below to access the following documents:

- [Progress report: "Local Government and Human Rights", A/HRC/27/59, 4th September 2014](#)
- [Resolution of the United Nations Human Rights Council, A/HRC/27/L.6, 19th September 2014](#)