

Circular 107

UCLG Committees and Working Groups

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Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights

At the UCLG Congress and Habitat III, Local Governments and Civil Society enhanced the agenda for the Right to the City

A report of the Committee's activities in Bogota and Quito is now available

Dear members,

The UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights actively took part in the [UCLG World Congress](#) in Bogota (12-15 October) and the UN Conference on Sustainable Urban Development and Housing – [Habitat III](#) – in Quito (17-20 October). In both events, the Committee, represented by many of its member cities and its Secretariat, along with civil society and UN human rights system partners, had the chance to promote the global agenda for the Right to the City and to extend the global movement for human rights in cities. The Committee Secretariat has produced **a [report of the activities in which it took part during these events](#)**.

The Congress in Bogota and the Habitat III Conference marked a new stage in the process of advocating for the Right to the City, as **both [local governments](#) and the Habitat III Agenda adopted by the States mention the Right to the City**. This recognition is one of the main **results of the alliance between UCLG, civil society organizations and research centres** (FLACSO, DPU-UCL, La Vue), with whom we share now the space of the [Global Platform for the Right to the City](#).

However, new challenges emerge in this new stage in order for the Right to the City not to be watered down:

- Making sure that **the Right to the City does not become the “obligation to the city”** – this is a real risk in a principally urban world in which national and international migration to cities is usually not freely chosen and where the city is seen to be the only alternative, given the abandonment of rural development policies, land grabbing and the consequences of climate change.

- **Laying the legal foundations for the Right to the City** so that it does not remain a mere vision, but a legal body rooted in human rights recognized by international treaties.
- Guaranteeing the **necessary public funds and resources both at local and global level** so that cities are seen as common goods – faced with the current privatization trends and the *Smart City* model.
- Setting up a **Habitat III monitoring programme, based on the local level and rooted in indicators measuring the guarantee of the Right to the City.**
- **Strengthening the social basis** of the Right to the City and broadening the global movement advocating for it.

The report of the Committee's activities in Bogota and Quito is accessible [here](#).

Sincerely,

The UCLG World Secretariat

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

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

- [Report of the Committee's activities at the UCLG Congress and Habitat III](#)
- [CSIPDHR's 2017 Action Plan](#)
- [Results of the UCLG Congress](#)
- [New Urban Agenda](#)



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