Circular 91
UCLG Committees and Working Groups
Barcelona, 8th April 2015

Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights
5th World Human Rights Cities Forum in Gwangju (South Korea) 15 to 18 May

Dear members,

From 15 to 18 May 2015, the Gwangju International Center and Gwangju Metropolitan City will organize the 5th World Human Rights Cities Forum (WHRCF) with the support of the Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights, and the Korea Human Rights Foundation.

Since 2011, the WHRCF has gathered key actors and stakeholders engaged in building human rights cities. This 5th edition of the WHRCF aims to pursue the exchanges of experiences between cities committed to human rights around the world, and to strengthen the global alliance of cities for human rights on the basis of the Gwangju Guiding Principles for a Human Rights City (2011). To this end, the 2015 edition will develop last year’s theme – “Towards a Global Alliance of Human Rights Cities for All” – to highlight the importance of expanding the global human rights cities movement and to promote solidarity and mutual cooperation.

More than 500 participants are expected, mainly representatives of human rights cities, including members of the UCLG CISDP and UCLG’s Section for Asia-Pacific – ASPAC, human rights NGOs, community-based organizations, local parliamentarians and academics, as well as UN human rights experts.

The meeting will include several types of sessions and activities. Two special sessions will take place on "Human Rights Cities Policy". An experts' workshop on "Local Government and Human Rights" will be held by UN Human Rights experts, and the third International Conference on "State Violence and Trauma" will also be organized by Gwangju Trauma Center. A Session on Asia will also be added, with the theme of “Human rights in Asia and the vision of a human rights city”. Further, eight thematic workshops will be organized by local civil society organizations. Participants will be given opportunities to get involved in special events such as a citizens’ rally and a human rights culture tour. Finally, a Closing Ceremony will take place, including the adoption of a declaration of the concluding statements of the Forum.

The 5th WHRCF is a strategic space to promote concrete tools such as the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City and the Gwangju Guiding Principles for a Human Rights City, and progress on their implementation.
The Forum recalls that human rights require the participation of citizens in the movement to re-appropriate the stakes linked to the city, as well as their participation in developing solutions.

We sincerely encourage you to participate in the 5th edition of the World Human Rights Cities Forum.

You can register for the WHRCF by sending the registration form to whrcf2015@gmail.com

The Executive Secretary is at your disposal for more information: m.fricaudet@uclg.org

Sincerely,

**The UCLG World Secretariat**
On behalf of the Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights

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