

Circular 96

UCLG Committees and Working Groups

Barcelona, 10 September 2015

Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights Presentation of the Report on "The role of local governments in the promotion and protection of human rights" at the 30th session of the UN Human Rights Council

Dear members,

On September 22, on the occasion of the 30th Session of the [United Nations Human Rights Council](#) in Geneva, the final Report on the [Role of local government in the promotion and protection of human rights](#) will be presented. Since 2014, the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights has actively participated in the drafting of this report along with the [Human Rights Council Advisory Committee](#). This constitutes an important step in the recognition of CSIPDHR's members shared commitments for human rights in the city, both at global and local level, which encourages networking within UCLG.

The final version of the report acknowledges **the crucial role of decentralization for localizing democracy and human rights** and reaffirms the **shared and complementary duties of States and local governments to respect, protect and fulfil human rights**. Indeed, local authorities are often those who translate international and national human rights obligations into practical actions. Because of their proximity to citizens, local governments are the ones most likely to generate a real impact on all aspects related with the realization of the rights to education, housing, health, culture, equality and inclusion, freedom of expression and the protection of minorities. The report also recalls that local governments should have the **necessary means and resources** in order to achieve such an impact.

Furthermore, in the report, the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee recalls that, despite the many **challenges of political, economic and administrative** nature which local governments face to guarantee human rights, there are **several good practices and concrete mechanisms which can also be highlighted**. To this respect, some **tools promoted by the Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights** are listed, such as: [the European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the city](#), the [Global Charter Agenda for Human Rights in the City](#) and [Gwangju guiding principles for a Human Rights City](#).

Finally, the report explores **the concept of the Right to the City, as a way to ensure the equitable use of cities according to principles of sustainability, democracy and social justice.** Tools such as [Brazil's City Statute](#), [Montreal Charter of Rights and Responsibilities](#), [Mexico City Charter for the Right to the City](#) and the [World Charter for the Right to the City](#) are also referred as cornerstones within this topic.

As an advisory member of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, UCLG has requested a space to present its official position on the Report. Also, a statement will be presented by the Co-President of the Committee, Patrick Braouezec (President of Plaine Commune, France). We invite members who wish to submit their comments to the Secretariat of the Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights of UCLG to send an email before September 15 to: cisdp1@uclg.org.

The Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights will also participate in a **side event on this Report, organized by the Republic of Korea on September 18.**

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 above mentioned documents:

- [Report on the Role of local government in the promotion and protection of human rights](#)
- [Statement of UCLG](#) - only available in French. Please note that the English version will be available on the [Committee Website](#) at the beginning of next week.
- [Circular 83 of the Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights](#)
- [Global Charter-agenda for Human Rights in the City](#)
- [Gwangju Guiding Principles for a Human Rights City](#)

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