

Meeting on local governments and human rights

Addressing economic and social inequalities at local level

Geneva, 17 June 2019

The meeting organized by OHCHR and UCLG will explore local government shared challenges, initiatives and aspirations in carrying out human rights action at the local and global levels. It aims at recognizing and highlighting local governments work on the protection and the promotion of human rights by the UN system and contribute to on-going processes including the report on the role of “Local government in promoting and protecting human rights”, to be presented at the Human Rights Council by Fall 2019.

----- Objectives -----

- Recognizing, highlighting and publicizing the work of local governments on the promotion and protection of human rights;
- Fostering dialogue between local government and representatives from the UN human rights system in order to discuss shared challenges and initiatives and good and replicable practices;
- Exploring potential areas of strategic collaboration between OHCHR with cities and local authorities with a view for a long term engagement

----- Agenda -----

9:00 – 9:30 Registration and welcome

9:30 – 10:00 Opening statements by the Deputy High Commissioner, Kate Gilmore and UCLG CSIPDHR co-presidency

10:00 – 10:30 Keynote speeches and presentations on the human rights city

10:30 - 10:45 Break

10:45 – 12h45 Local governments promoting and protecting human rights: Priorities, challenges and initiatives (Thematic discussions)

Each thematic bloc will count with presentations by 3-4 local governments representatives (30mn) and open round of discussion (15mn), facilitated by an OHCHR-Representative or Human rights mechanisms independent expert

- **Group 1:** Local governments as promoters and protectors of economic and social rights: Housing, informality, access to basic public services and public space

- **Group 2:** Inequality, social and economic rights of groups in situation of vulnerability: Migration, non-discrimination, urban security and peace
- **Group 3:** Guaranteeing the Right to the City for all: rights to participation, free expression and culture

12:45 – 14:00 *Lunch time*

14:00 – 15h30 Strengthening dialogue and partnership between local governments and the UN human rights system: *How can local governments, the human rights cities movement and the UN human rights system work more efficiently, together, for the protection and promotion of human rights?*

15:30 – 15h45 Wrap up and next steps

----- **Guiding questions throughout the day**-----

Human rights challenges and action at the local level

- What human rights-related challenges are the most pressing for local governments? What are their main thematic priorities in developing human rights action?
- What human rights laws, policies and initiatives have been developed at local level in order to promote and protect human rights? How is human rights governance structured inside local administration? What sustainable structures have been put in place?
- What are the conditions and what are the challenges regarding the multi-stakeholder (civil society, business) and multi-level (regional or national government) environment for developing human rights action?

A common voice for the global movement of local governments for human rights

- How can local authorities protect and promote human rights given the current international and national political context? How can local governments help globalize the human rights city movement in the regions where the political situation is not favorable
- What are local government priorities in establishing a more institutionalized dialogue between the “Human Rights Cities” movement and the UN Human Rights system? Showcasing local government capacity to globalize local issues and localizing global ones
- How can cooperation between local governments and the UN Human Rights system can strengthen overall promotion and protection of human rights at all levels? What tools and mechanisms can develop the OHCHR for local governments beyond the report?