



**UCLG Committee  
on Social Inclusion,  
Participatory Democracy  
and Human Rights**

**COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL INCLUSION,  
PARTICIPATIVE DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

**2015 BIENNIAL MEETING**

**MEXICO, 21 APRIL 2015**

**MINUTES**



**United Cities and Local Governments  
Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis  
Ciudades y Gobiernos Locales Unidos**



UCLG Committee  
on Social Inclusion,  
Participatory Democracy  
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## DOCUMENTATION

### 1. Minutes

### 2. Documents



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*The 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 Biannual Meeting of the Committee on Social Inclusion, Participative Democracy and Human Rights of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) was held on 21 April 2015 during the International seminar of local governments for the Right to the City of Mexico City. The meeting took place at the Hotel Hilton Mexico City Reforma between 1.30 pm and 16.00 pm.*

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### 1. Welcome and introductions

**Mrs Rosa Icela Rodríguez**, Councillor of Social Development of Mexico City's Government launched the meeting by welcoming all the participants in her city. She highlighted that Mexico City is very proud and happy to have been selected for the co-organization of this International seminar of local governments for the Right to the City.

**Mrs Magali Fricaudet**, coordinator of the Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights of UCLG, then presented herself and explained that she was currently replacing **Mrs Eva Garcia Chueca**, who is finishing her thesis. However, **Mrs Magali Fricaudet** emphasized that the Committee was continuing its work for the promotion of the Right to the City and Human Rights Cities with the civil society and the academic sector. She thanked the participants for the interest and the attendance in this meeting, which was opened in order to involve all the people interested in the Committee's work.

After a quick presentation of the meeting program, each participant briefly introduced himself.

### 2. Presentation of the work done by the Committee between 2005 and 2014

**Mr. Patrick Braouezec**, President of the Urban Community of Plaine Commune, Co-president of the Committee presented the work achieved by the Committee since its creation.

He began by recalling the origin of the Committee, which came from the Forum for Social Inclusion and Participatory Democracy (FAL) celebrated during the World Social Forum. The FAL stressed the major role of social inclusion and participatory democracy in cities and encouraged the birth of this Committee into UCGL. Then, **Patrick Braouezec** recalled the need to gather local governments and to strengthen alliances with civil society to address the current challenges that cities are facing. He also recalled the commitment of Habitat II Declaration (Istanbul, 1996) to admit the role of local authorities in solving global challenges.

Then, **Mr. Patrick Braouezec** briefly displayed the process of promotion of the [Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City](#), adopted by UCLG during the World Council of Florence (2011). He recalled the reluctance of some Local Governments to approve the Charter at that time. Mr. Braouezec also explained that the Charter is not a document which commits



overnight, but it is like a “flight plan” which implies a mutual and long-term involvement as well as a common work to succeed in the implementation of fundamental rights in a territory.

Today, one of the main purposes of the Habitat III Summit (third conference of UN-Habitat on Human Settlements, Quito 2016) is to evaluate the implementation of the goals set during Habitat II and define the development goals for the twenty following years. **Mr. Patrick Braouezec** claimed the importance that local governments, civil society and NGOs unite their voices during Habitat III, since there is much hesitancy to take non-State actors into account in the elaboration of the New Urban Agenda.

Then, **Patrick Braouezec** explained that UCLG asked the Committee to take part to the [Global Task Force](#)<sup>1</sup> as a sign of recognition of its messages and work. However, many doubts still remain to really involve local governments in the elaboration and the assessment of UN-Habitat Summits. Hence, it is very important to work within UCLG to make visible the role of local governments in the international negotiations and to ensure the recognition of the Right to the Centrality and the Right to the City at international level.

Finally, **Patrick Braouezec** expressed his appreciation for the work realized by the Committee thanks to **Mrs Eva Garcia Chueca** and to **Mrs Magali Fricaudet**. He added that few UCLG Committees have produced such relevant work as CISDP. To pursue this work, member's cities must also take responsibilities for the funding of the Committee. Indeed, without financial means it is difficult to bring forward local government's movements for the Right to the City.

He concluded his intervention by outlining that the future of cities cannot be achieved without its inhabitants. The real challenge is in the inclusion of all, which is why the New Global Urban Agenda should recognize the Right to the City. Beyond each particular context, the access to fundamental rights should be appropriated by cities' inhabitants.

**Mr. Bachir Kanouté**, representative from ENDA Senegal and the International Organization of Participatory Democracy in Africa, reacted to the intervention of Patrick Braouezec highlighting the importance to develop relationships between elected members and civil society.

### 3. Presentation and exchange: the [Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City](#): what promotion at global and local level?

**Mrs. Stéphanie Marques Dos Santos** from the Cabinet of the Deputy Mayor Bea Diallo presented Ixelles (Belgium) experience in the implementation of the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City.

**Mrs Stéphanie Marques** began highlighting the important role of local authorities and the subsidiarity principle because of its proximity to citizens. However, the negative effects of the global crisis affected primarily local governments, which are compelled to respond to an increasing people's demand in a constraint budget context.

The municipality of Ixelles is committed for participatory democracy and equality. It is trying to move from a pyramidal model to a network model building based on the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City.

Then, **Mrs Stéphanie Marques** explained the reasons why Ixelles chose to adopt this Charter. Firstly, Ixelles is a polarized municipality with a lot of inequalities between its districts. Furthermore, because of the crisis, there have been several cuts in the municipal budget. In this context, the adoption of the Charter acts as a framework which regulates the reduction of public



expenses. It was officially adopted in 2012 on a proposal from Amnesty International Francophone Belgium (which always assess the process). First, there was a phase of compilation of good practices of the municipality, so they could be valued and fomented. Secondly, an action plan for the concrete implementation of the Charter was adopted through a participatory process.

**Mrs Stéphanie Marques** concluded her intervention underlining two major difficulties for the concrete implementation of such public policies. First, social changes are only visible in a long-term analysis. In that sense, the Charter is a helpful tool because it provides a lasting normative framework. Secondly, there is a lack of relevant tools to monitor the efficiency of such policies, which are neither easily quantifiable nor valuable.

Thereafter, **Mr. Antonio Aniesa**, Collaborator of Patrick Braouezec for metropolitan and International Affairs in Plaine Commune and moderator of this meeting recalled UCLG's mission in supporting and encouraging exchanges of experiences for "networking". Then, he asked **Stéphanie Marques** two questions: How did you come to know CSIPDHR? What do you expect from the Committee?

**Mrs Stéphanie Marques** answered that Ixelles municipality become aware of the Committee through Amnesty International Francophone Belgium's campaign for the promotion of the Charter. Secondly, the interest for the Committee is based on the common commitment of cities which are bringing the same messages and on the work of exchange of experiences. She also highlighted the opportunity to become part of an international movement within an organization which enhances the role of local governments.

**M. Antonio Aniesa** recalled that Amnesty International Francophone Belgium was very involved in the World Forum on Human Rights organized by the City of Nantes in 2010. He outlined the importance of forums to build networks.

**Mr. Bachir Kanoute** also asked **Stéphanie Marques** if the adoption of the Charter had changed the relationship between the municipality and citizens.

**Mrs. Stéphanie Marques** answered that changes were visible within the level of public management. The valorization of good practices and the work around an action plan through a participatory process had brought positive effects, especially in the commitment of associations, which increased during this process. **Mrs. Stéphanie Marques** recalled that Ixelles' municipality only count 80 000 inhabitants.

**Mr. Patrick Braouezec** commented that there are neither little or big cities. UCLG integrate all local governments regardless the size of its territory or population. There is a lot to learn from little cities in terms of social cohesion. Small scale experiences are major sources of learning for big cities.

Then, **Mr. Antonio Aniesa** underlined the crucial role of Committees within UCLG. Indeed, their thematic work is often recognized by cities and can create new memberships into the organization.

**Mr. Eugene Zapata Garesche**, International Councilor of the Federal District Government of Mexico City supported **Antonio Aniesa's** idea, underlining also the crucial role of Committees, probably more important than the international advocacy work of UCLG. The Committees ensure the direct relationship between UCLG and the cities. Mexico City is involved in thematic committees of UCLG because of the concrete results for local action. Three Mexico City Departments (Social Development, Health and Culture) are already involved in various thematic committees of UCLG (Social Inclusion and Culture).



Then, **Mr. Jorge Enrique Rojas** Secretary for Social Integration of Bogota (Colombia), first thanked **Mrs. Rosela Icela Rodríguez** for the seminar organization and commented that he enjoyed the political contents of the debates. He wondered how UCLG as a whole could ratify these principles. He then draws attention on the pressure that progressive local governments are facing. How to resist to these pressures in a context of economic recession? He then underlined the importance to work hand in hand with civil society because even though local governments can change, civil society stays. **M. Rojas** added that the role of academic sector is really important to improve the debate but it is not enough to implement concrete public policies. To follow the agenda of the right to the city, the city of Bogota will organize from 3 to 6 July an initiative called *Latin American Cities Dialogue* to pool all the alternatives which are implemented in cities. He invited all participants to participate in it.

**Mrs. Lorena Zárate**, President of Housing International Coalition (HIC) added that the involvement of civil society allowed the implementation of the [Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City](#) in the agenda of local governments. She thinks that the role of the committees is to create contents and to maintain achievements to ensure the continuity of the benefits won along the last years. She also added the importance of developing a strategic reflection to protect the functioning of the committees even in case of political changes.

**Mr. Patrick Braouezec** reacted, saying that it is very difficult to ensure continuity, since the change of political compasses within cities can also mean the change of actions and priorities. This is part of the democratic process, in which there are times of progress and times of retreat. That is why the civil society and other associations should be strong enough to recall the commitment on human rights from the new political powers since the beginning. **Mr. Patrick Braouezec** asked himself how to increase the CSIPDHR's network, leaning on the expertise of elected members, citizens and researchers at the same time? Meetings like this or the web site of the Committee could be great platforms to fulfill that purpose. The annual UCLG World Council is also a great opportunity where local governments and civil society can meet. He proposed an innovative idea for the next UCLG World Council: each mayor should go with two inhabitants, so citizens can understand what happens at their local government's level.

**Mrs. Rocío López** from the Operational Center of Housing and Settlement (Mexico City) then thanked Mexico City for its commitment with the Committee and for the organization of the seminar. In her view, UCLG's Committees offer great opportunities for dialogue between Local Governments and civil society. She explained her experience in Iztapalapa district where a plan for monitoring the implementation of human rights was accomplished through civil society's initiative. She also insisted on the importance to build reliable territorial indicators recognized by local authorities in order to progress towards the implementation of human rights. In her opinion, such indicators should be built with the help of local governments, in order to create a normative framework and speed up the process.

#### 4. Strategic guidelines and governance of the Committee for the period 2015 – 2016: towards Habitat III

##### a) Enhancement and spreading of the Human Rights Cities Network for human rights

**Dr. Gyonggu Shin**, Director of the International Center of Gwangju (South Korea) explained that Gwangju have a long tradition of struggle for justice and democracy, especially after its long period of dictatorship. Gwangju 1980's Uprising was the trigger for the end of the military regime



in Korea (May 18th Gwangju) and also a key moment in the pursuit of justice and human rights in the region.

Gwangju's model is particularly interesting since its efforts towards justice and human rights rely considerably on local governments. There, frameworks and administrative tools were specially created to protect human rights. Moreover, citizens' training in such issues is a priority for the city, which wants to promote a real citizen culture to protect human rights. Furthermore, Gwangju is actively engaged in the promotion of the [Gwangju Guiding Principles](#) around the world by sharing experiences through international forums and conferences. The city welcomed four edition of the World Human Rights City Forum (2012, 2013, and 2014) and will welcome the 2015 edition in May.

To conclude, **Dr. Gyonggu Shin** explained that the involvement of Gwangju city in the CSIPDHR allows the spreading of the Committee's network towards Asia. In this context, Gwangju wishes to be the link with Asian cities.

#### **b) Advocacy**

**Mrs. Lorena Zárate** introduced the [Global Platform for the Right to the City](#). The CSIPDHR participated as co-founder of this Platform in order structure the dialogue with civil society.

**Mrs. Lorena Zárate** explained that the Platform was created during the International meeting for the Right to the City (12 – 14 November 2014, Sao Paulo). It gathers not only many associations and organizations of civil society and international networks, but also street workers, transports, public spaces, domestic workers, etc. The Platform aims to articulate and enhance the influence between different actors in order to promote inclusive, fair, democratic and sustainable cities. The origin of the Platform comes from the World Social Forum dynamics and was also nourished by the process of redaction of the [Global Charter-Agenda](#).

**Lorena Zárate** explained that the organizations of the Platform are working to identify common goals and progress towards the right to the city. Habitat III is an important step, since it will cover many urban themes related to territories: migrations, nomadism, transports, public spaces, etc. Hence, it is very important to build alliances between civil society and Local Governments to influence the content of Habitat III Agenda. **Lorena Zárate** recalled UN-Habitat's tendency to reduce the space for non-state actors. Therefore, the Platform is articulated to increase the strength of civil society in alliance with local governments within international negotiations. She advocated for the right to have an autonomous space of debate for civil society and the right to access public resources and political spaces of international negotiations.

Finally, **Lorena Zárate** mentioned the fourth working group created within the Global Platform:

- A group of articulation and alliances (all level, all actors)
- A group of international advocacy strategies (Habitat III and others)
- A research group
- A communication and awareness group





### c) Collective knowledge – GOLD Project

**Mr. Hassan Hmani**, Deputy Mayor for citizen participation, communication and world (Nanterre – France) spoke about the commitment of his city with the Committee on Peripheral Cities and the preparation of the next report on decentralization and local democracy (GOLD IV) as a contribution for the New Global Agenda. As a President City of the Committee on Peripheral Cities of UCLG, Nanterre participates together with Metropolis and CSIPDHR in the preparation of this report. He reminded that GOLD Report is coordinated by UCLG World Secretary with the help of elected and experts in order to develop a prospective view of the urban world, until 2050.

**Mr. Hassan Hmani** reminded the importance of taking into account the perspective of peripheral cities and not only center cities in that work. He added that, within thirty years, 2,5 billions of people will be living in urban areas, but mostly in peripheral cities.

**Mr. Antonio Aniesa** added that CSIPDHR is also part of this work, especially on the issue of inclusive metropolitan areas.

### d) Research, communication, training and structural support of UCLG

**Mrs. Magali Fricaudet** explained that the CSIPDHR was integrated into the work of the [Global Task Force](#) of local governments coordinated by UCLG to carry out the messages of local governments in the definition of the New Global Urban Agenda. Furthermore, as member of the [Global Platform for the Right to the City](#), the Committee acts as a bridge between UCLG and the civil society for the negotiations towards Habitat III. Hence, the advocacy work of the Committee consists in two main strategic lines:

- A the work of collective knowledge from concrete proposals of elected members and main UCLG partners gathered into the Global Task Force
- The contribution along with the civil society through the Global Platform for the Right to the City

Furthermore, in the framework of UCLG global strategy for Peer-Learning exchanges between local governments, the Committee will take part in a seminar on the decent work in Odienné (Ivory Coast) in collaboration with the International Labor Organization and UCLG Africa. It is also a potential opportunity to develop the network in Africa. The same goal has been undertaken during the World Social Forum in Tunis where the Committee, among other activities, participated in a seminar on participatory budgets in Tunis' City hall, organized by Enda and AfroLeadership organizations. Indeed, the new Tunisian Constitution recognizes decentralization and participatory democracy. Moreover, Tunisian municipalities are interested in learning more about this field. So, the Committee will try to strengthen this line of training from the demands of its members.

Finally, **Mrs. Magali Fricaudet** reminded that the networks feed upon the information sharing. That is why the Committee is doing a significant work of communication on social networks. The [web site](#) is regularly updated, and there are many resources in the three languages.

## 5. Presentation of the candidates for the collegial presidency

Four local governments proposed to co-lead the Committee during 2015. Indeed, the Committee is led by a collective presidency coordinated by Plaine Commune which provides the link with the Executive Secretariat. **Mrs. Magali Fricaudet** gave the word to the representatives from local governments willing to integrate the collective presidency. She





explained that this new co-presidency has to be approved by UCLG Executive Bureau in Porto Alegre:

- **Dr. Miguel Ángel Mancera Espinosa**, Head of Government of Mexico City

**Mrs Rosa Icela Rodríguez**, representative of **Dr. Miguel Ángel Mancera Espinosa**, reminded the importance of the [Mexico City Charter for the Right to the City](#) approved in 2010 with the civil society for a better access to rights. She also underlined that the current government follows the line of the former one, renewing the signature to the Mexico City Charter. She added that there are no political progress without the protection of human rights. For all these reasons, the current government of Mexico City commits to the new co-presidency of the CSIPDHR, aiming at:

- Representing Latin American cities
- Supporting initiatives from civil society and local government that carry out the same values
- Reminding the universality of rights
- Following the work of implementation of the gender approach budget with a system of assessment of public policies and transparency
- Strengthening the collaboration with UCLG

**Mrs. Rosa Icela Rodríguez** finished her intervention by thanking the CSIPDHR and Mexico City's services which have worked to co-organize the seminar.

- **Mr. Patrick Braouezec**, President of the Urban Community of Plaine Commune, renewed his commitment with the Committee. He proposed to ensure the coordination of the presidency with the Executive Secretariat.
- **Mr. LEE Kyung-ryu** Head of the Human Rights Office of Gwangju (South Korea) in representation of **Mr. OH Hyung-Guk**, Mayor of Gwangju said to be very impressed by the work realized by Mexico City. He shared the interest of Gwangju to represent Asian cities in the Committee and to extend the network of Human Rights cities and the concept of the right to the city in Asia.
- Mr. Antonio Aniesa expressed the interest of the Council of Seine-Saint-Denis to renew its commitment with the co-presidency of the Committee through **Mr. Abdel Sadi**, newly elected.

**Mr. Patrick Braouezec** expresses its satisfaction about the geographic plurality of the candidate cities. He commented that the next challenge is to mobilize African cities.

## 6. International Agenda

In the final part of the meeting, which is dedicated to discuss the agenda of next meetings, **Mr. Nelson Saule Jr.**, Director of Polis Institute (Brazil), presented the [agenda of the Global platform for the right to the city](#).

He explained that the goal for the next two years is to strengthen the participation of Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin American organizations in the platform. A research work based on concrete experiences as well as a substantive work on this field with the CSIPDHR will be undertaken and fostered. The experiences of implementation shall be visible through the



organization of regional meetings on the right to the city with the strategic support of the Committee.

Furthermore, the participation in Habitat III Summit will be actively prepared. A working group will reflect on how to build a network and a strategy. The contribution of local governments to the agenda and how are they represented in the working group still need to be defined. However, there is already a plan to work in a presentation of the Global platform for the right to the city during Habitat III.

Finally, **Mrs. Magali Fricaudet** presented the next strategic meetings to contribute to proposals for the New Global Urban Agenda:

- 5th World Human Rights Cities Forum (Gwangju), from 15 to 18 May 2015
- Latin American Cities Dialogue organized by Bogotá and REDCISUR, from 3 to 6 June 2015
- UCLG Executive Bureau in Porto Alegre, from 10 to 12 June
- A meeting of Peripheral Local Authorities Forum for Metropolises in Solidarity, 24<sup>th</sup> September in Moron (Argentina)
- A meeting on “Territories at the heart of climate change”, on 4<sup>th</sup> December in St-Denis (Plaine Commune, suburb of Paris), during the COP21 and the UCLG World Council (to be confirmed)
- A second meeting of the CISDPDH will be held during the UCLG World Council in December

**Mr. Antonio Aniesa** explained that it is very difficult to attend to all events, but speaking with one voice is also one of the advantages of taking part into a network. He reminded that the Committee helps local governments to take initiatives. There is a call for proposals to organize a seminar of local governments for the right to the city. Two seminars will possibly take place in Vienna (Austria) and in Sao Paulo (Brazil) in 2016.

Finally, **Eugene Zapata** presented the Euro-Latin-American initiative of Cooperation between [AL-LAS](#) Cities, coordinated by the Mexico City Government, to strengthen the collective capacity to work of Latin American's local authorities, their networks and associations in the contemporary international relations, and to enhance the quality of public policies and the territorial development. There are three primary lines of action: sustainability, social inclusion and attractiveness.

Concerning social inclusion, which is leaded by Moron Municipality, the common thinking understands the cities' internationalization as a tool for strengthening and developing the inclusive cities model. The results of this reflection were systematized in the **Notebook n°6 of the Notebook Collection for Cities' Internationalization: International action for an inclusive city**. The Notebook will be published on June 2015.

In view of the work achieved by Committee on Social inclusion, the [AL-LAS](#) project brings the opportunity to strengthen the common work inviting the members to register in the expert community, to participate in the web seminar on social inclusion and to share the publications in the virtual resource center.

## Closing remarks



**Ms. Magali Fricaudet**, Coordinator of the Committee, sincerely thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

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<sup>i</sup> The Global Task Force of Local Governments is coordinated by UCLG to promote Local Governments' proposals in the New Global Agenda