The activity will be organised jointly by the Committee on Social Inclusion and Participatory Democracy (CISDP) of the world organisation "United Cities and Local Governments" (UCLG) and the International Permanent Secretariat on Human Rights and Local Governments, Nantes, Pays de la Loire (SPIDH).

The CISDP has been working on the field of social inclusion, participatory democracy and Human Rights since 2005. In particular, it has endeavoured to mainstream Human Rights in local policies by working with local governments worldwide. To do so, it has endowed itself with two tools: the Global Charter Agenda on Human Rights in the City and the European Charter on Human Rights in the City. Both charters have been the result of (i) the engagement of local authorities in the safeguarding of Human Rights and of (ii) the self-conviction that local authorities, as the sphere of government closest to citizens, are a key agent in the realisation of Human Rights.

In 2007 the SPIDH has been named to lead the Human Rights and Local Governments working group of the UCLG’s Committee on Social Inclusion and Participative Democracy (CISDP). In this task, the SPIDH, which also organizes the World Forum on Human Rights, is supported by Nantes Métropole, the Pays de la Loire Region, the Department of Loire-Atlantique and the City of Nantes, the local government authorities that sit on its board of directors.

1. Description of the event:

This event aims to be a meeting point for local governments and urban policy practitioners who are committed to making the right to the city a reality. It will foster a dialogue among representatives of local authorities and international experts regarding Human Rights policies and / or experiences at local level in order to draw lessons that can enrich future local policies and to promote them worldwide.
Objectives of the event:

1. Exchange of experiences between local authorities and international experts with regards to the implementation of human rights through local policies.

2. Presentation of best practices and innovative tools regarding the implementation of human rights at local level.

3. Give international visibility to the policies and/or experiences undertaken by local authorities regarding human rights.

2. Speakers

The session will be moderated by Mr Franck Barrau, Secretary General of the International Permanent Secretariat on Human Rights and Local Governments, Nantes, Pays de la Loire (SPIDH).

5 representatives of local governments: Sebastiao Almeida, Mayor of Guarulhos – Brasil (to be confirmed); Catherine Peyge, Mayor of Bobigny - France; Gérard Perreau, Deputy Mayor of Nanterre - France; Gérard Rampal, Deputy Mayor of Aubagne - France; Manuel Hernández, vice-president of FAMSI (Andalusian Fund of Municipalities for International Solidarity) – Spain (to be confirmed)

1 representative of the Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE) – Sebastian Tedeschi, Programme Coordinator

1 representative of the Habitat International Coalition (HIC) – Davinder Lamba, President Habitat International Coalition

1 representative of UNESCO, Programme of Urban Development – Brigitte Colin, Programme Specialist (to be confirmed)

1 representative of UN-HABITAT – to be confirmed

3. Questions to be raised during the discussion

- How did your city/local government address human rights issues at the local policy level?
- What are the specific challenges faced by local governments in your region as regards the protection and implementation of human rights at the local level?
- According to you, why are local governments key agents for action?
- How do local governments in your region cooperate with the different actors of civil society in order to implement human rights?
- What are your expectations from international organisations and NGOs in terms of technical/theoretical support and training?

4. Organisation of the session

The session is built as a dialogue between urban practitioners, international experts and local representatives. It will last two hours and each speaker will be asked to do a 10-minute presentation on her/his experience regarding the implementation of human rights at local level.

Debate and questions will follow.

Translation will be available in English, French and Portuguese.