



## ACTIVITIES REPORT 2011 - 2013

*The aim of the **Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights** is to contribute to building the common voice of UCLG cities on inclusion, participation and human rights, and to advise local governments on the design of these policies. To that end, during the period 2011 - 2013 the Committee carried out the following activities:*

### ADVOCACY

**ORGANIZATION OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> WORLD SUMMIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR THE RIGHT TO THE CITY (Saint-Denis, December 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012).** The intercommunality of Plaine Commune (France) and the Committee on Social Inclusion organized this summit that aimed to initiate a new stage after the cycle of conferences around the *European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City*, whose drafting process began in Barcelona (1998), being later adopted in Saint-Denis (2000) and discussed in Venice (2002), Nuremberg (2004), Lyons (2006), Geneva (2008) and Tuzla (2010). Considering that currently, in addition to the *European Charter* there is the *Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City* and other local human rights charters adopted in different regions of the world, the Saint-Denis summit aimed to contribute to the articulation of these tools and explore how local governments are implementing them in their territories. The event was attended by around 200 participants and it had a total of 40 speakers from 16 countries (Austria, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, South Korea, Slovenia, Spain, USA, France, Mexico, The Netherlands, Portugal, Senegal and Switzerland). In this event, the Committee launched a new working dynamics on the right to the city and the construction of a new network of actors (local governments, civil society representatives and academia), which will determine the course of the work the Committee will do after the 4<sup>th</sup> Congress of UCLG. Created in 2005 from the FAL Network (Forum of Local Authorities for Social Inclusion and Participatory Democracy), members of the Committee have highlighted the need to renew political work developed over the past eight years and move to a new stage.

**PARTICIPATION IN THE 6<sup>th</sup> WORLD WATER FORUM (Marseilles, March 12<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012).** The Committee sponsored the organization of a workshop organized by *Pays d'Aubagne et de l'Etoile* (France) on *Water, a common good of humanity. A challenge for the right to the city* (Aubagne, March 13<sup>rd</sup>, 2012). The purpose of this meeting was to build a political message on water as a public good. The conclusions of the seminar were presented at the final assembly of the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum.

**ADOPTION BY UCLG OF THE GLOBAL CHARTER-AGENDA FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CITY.** At the initiative of the Committee, the UCLG World Council held in Florence (Italy) from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> December 2011 formally adopted the *Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City*. After four years of intense debate (2007 - 2011), this tool became part of the organization's political heritage. In fact, this instrument is being used as a reference tool to build UCLG political message before the international community, particularly regarding the preparatory processes of Post-2015 and HABITAT III (2016) UN summits. Besides, with the aim of spreading the *Charter-Agenda* in Asia, the Committee participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> *World Human Rights Cities Forum*, held in 2012 and 2013 in Gwangju (South Korea). As a result, the Committee has established permanent communication channels with this municipality, that is significantly helping to raise awareness of the *Charter-Agenda* in East Asia.



## EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES

**PARTICIPATION IN THE 3<sup>rd</sup> FORUM OF PERIPHERAL LOCAL AUTHORITIES (Canoas, 11th - 13th June 2013).** The Committee actively contributed to the dissemination of the this forum that brought together metropolitan and peripheral cities from all over the world. This year, the forum had 200 participants from 30 countries. Several members of the Committee present at the event met informally to reaffirm their commitment to moving towards a more articulated response to the right to the city. They also showed that the right to the city is a particularly important challenge in large urban peripheries, as they are spaces that concentrate most of the problems of social exclusion and quality of life of urban dwellers.

**ORGANIZATION OF A ROUND TABLE ON THE 5<sup>th</sup> WOLRD FORUM HUMAN RIGHTS (Nantes, May 22<sup>nd</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013).** The debate was entitled *The fight against urban poverty: cities' policies and experiences to address the negative effects of the economic crisis on the most disadvantaged group*. The round table was made up by representatives from the cities of Guarulhos (Brazil), Toronto (Canada) and Barcelona (Spain), the Italian Committee of United Cities (Italy), UNICEF France, the University of Coimbra (Portugal) and the NGO GRET.

**PARTICIPATION IN THE 9<sup>th</sup> LOCAL AUTHORITIES WORLD FORUM (FAL) FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY (Dakar, February 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011).** The Committee actively collaborated in the organisation of the 9<sup>th</sup> FAL, which was attended by representatives from more than 300 cities world over. It also organised a workshop on the *Charter-Agenda* at the World Social Forum, in which representatives from the following cities or organisations participated: Nantes (France), Bamako 1 (Mali) Várzea Paulista (Brazil), Pays de la Loire region (France), Habitat International Coalition (HIC) and Amnesty International Belgium - Francophone section.

## RESOURCES

**CONSOLIDATION OF THE *INCLUSIVE CITIES OBSERVATORY*.** The *Inclusive Cities Observatory* is a space for analysis and reflection on local social inclusion policies containing more than sixty case studies on innovative policies of multiculturalism, community development, access to basic services, gender equality, human rights, protection of the environment and poverty eradication, among others. Over recent years, the Observatory has become widely disseminated through the Committee's website ([www.uclg-cisd.org/observatory](http://www.uclg-cisd.org/observatory)) and through communication materials produced for this purpose. The Centre for Social Studies (CES) of the University of Coimbra (Portugal), as the scientific committee of the Observatory, organized two activities that introduced the Observatory to the academic community: the Congress "*Cities are us. Rethinking Urban Inclusion. Spaces, protests and interventions*" (Coimbra, June 28th - 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012) and the Summer School "*Reinventing the city through democratic and civic participation: theories, methods and practices*" (Lisbon, July 2<sup>nd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012).

**PARTICIPATION IN THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE UCLG GOLD III REPORT ON BASIC SERVICES.** The Committee was invited to join the steering committee of the GOLD III report. After analyzing the state of decentralization worldwide (GOLD I) and local finances (GOLD II), this issue of the report analyzed the governance of basic services. The Committee participated in the meetings of the steering committee (June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011; February 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>, 2012; January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and July 4<sup>th</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013), presenting a selection of case studies from the *Inclusive Cities Observatory* so that GOLD III could provide examples of good practices.



## COMUNICATION

**NEW COMMUNICATION STRATEGY.** The Committee has strengthened its communication strategy through a very active presence in social networks (Facebook and Twitter) and the creation of a new website ([www.uclg-cisd.org](http://www.uclg-cisd.org)). The contents of the new website have been organized in a more accessible way and the new graphic design is now more attractive. Committee members have been permanently informed of the work undertaken through bimonthly newsletters and multiple circulars. The Committee has also launched a small collection of publications, which includes the *European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City*, the *Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City* and *For a World of Inclusive Cities*.

## GOVERNANCE

**ORGANIZATION OF WORKING MEETINGS.** The 2012 Committee Annual Meeting was organized on March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in Aubagne (France) during the international seminar *Water, a common good of humanity. A challenge for the right to the city*. The purpose of the meeting was to validate the 2011 – 2013 Strategic Plan and discuss the 2012 Action Plan. That same year, in Saint-Denis (France), a preparatory meeting of the 1<sup>st</sup> World Summit of Local Governments for the Right to the City (July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012) was organized. The 2013 Annual Meeting will take place on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, in the framework of the 4<sup>th</sup> World Congress of UCLG in Rabat (Morocco).

## INTERNATIONAL VISIBILITY

The Committee participated in the following international events in which it released its work:

### 2011

- 7 – 8 February. 9<sup>th</sup> Forum of Local Authorities for Social Inclusion and Participatory Democracy and *Committee meeting*, **Dakar** (Senegal)
- 7 – 10 February. 10<sup>th</sup> World Social Forum, **Dakar** (Senegal)
- 1 March. Conference on "Shared Social Responsibility. Securing trust and sustainable social cohesion in a context of transition" – Council of Europe and European Union, **Brussels** (Belgium)
- 10 – 11 March. 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Spanish Pilot Local Authorities of the "European Label of Innovation and Good Governance at local level" – Council of Europe, **San Sebastián** (Spain)
- 6 April. 9<sup>th</sup> IOPD Conference, **Lleida** (Spain)
- 12 – 15 April. 3<sup>rd</sup> PARLOCAL Seminar. "Communication and capacity building networks for the implementation of participatory budgeting and other participatory democracy tools", **Santo Domingo** (Dominican Republic)
- 23 – 24 June. UCLG Executive Bureau, **Rabat** (Morocco)
- 27 – 29 June. Meeting « Making a case for fundamental rights at local level » – European Union Fundamental Rights Agency, **Vienna** (Austria)
- 22 – 26 August. Ecocity World Summit, **Montreal** (Canada)
- 5-9 September. IN LOCO / CES / CSIPD Summer University "Societies in transition: building inclusive communities from the local level", **Tavira** (Portugal)
- 9 – 11 December. UCLG World Council and Committee round table on "Local Governments and the Right to the City", **Florence** (Italy)

### 2012

- 12 – 17 March. 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum, **Marseille** (France)
- 13 March. International Seminar "Water: a common good of humanity. A challenge for the right to the city", **Marseille** (France)
- 15 – 18 May. 2<sup>nd</sup> World Human Rights Cities Forum, **Gwangju** (South Korea)
- 28 – 30 June. Congress "Cities Are Us", **Coimbra** (Portugal)
- 2 – 7 July. Summer School "Reinventing the city through democratic and civic participation: theories, methods and practices", **Lisbon** (Portugal)
- 10 – 12 December. 1<sup>st</sup> World Summit of Local Governments for the Right to the City, **Saint-Denis** (France)

### 2013

- 26 – 30 March. 11<sup>th</sup> World Social Forum, **Tunis** (Tunisia)
- 15 – 18 May. 3<sup>rd</sup> World Human Rights Cities Forum, **Gwangju** (South Korea)
- 22 – 25 May. 5<sup>th</sup> World Forum on Human Rights, **Nantes** (France)
- 11 – 13 June. 3<sup>rd</sup> Forum of Peripheral Local Authorities (FLAP), **Canoas** (Brazil)
- 1 – 4 October. 4<sup>th</sup> World Congress of UCLG and World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders, **Rabat** (Morocco)