



UCLG Committee on Social
Inclusion and Participative Democracy

**COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATORY
DEMOCRACY**

**2ND BIENNIAL MEETING 2008
29TH NOVEMBER, ISTANBUL**

MINUTES



Ajuntament de Barcelona

AGENDA

1. Approval of the minutes for the 1st Biannual Meeting 2008
2. 2008 Activities Report
3. Social inclusion in UCLG: from Istanbul to Mexico DF
 - Policy paper on social inclusion
 - Observatory on Social Inclusion
 - UCLG World Congress (2010)
4. The right to the city: the “World Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City”
5. Towards a local agenda for citizen participation
6. Articulation with the International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (IOPD)
7. The challenge of networking: a proposal for improvement in the working of the Committee
8. 8th Forum of Local Authorities (FLA)

The 2nd Biannual Meeting 2008 of the Committee on Social Inclusion and Participatory Democracy of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) took place at the Hilton Hotel in Istanbul (Turkey) on November 29th. This event, held from 16:00h to 19:00h, was co-chaired by the cities of Barcelona and Guarulhos and vice-chaired by the Province of Milan and Ecatepec de Morelos. A total of 49 people took part in the meeting, representing 33 cities or institutions. The follow topics were dealt with:

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE 1ST BIENNIAL MEETING 2008

The minutes for the 1st Biannual Meeting 2008, held in Milan on April 3rd, was approved by the participants, upon proposal from **RICARD GOMÀ** and **ELÓI PIETÁ**, co-chairs of the Committee.

2. 2008 ACTIVITIES REPORT

RICARD GOMÀ, Deputy Mayor of Barcelona and co-chair of the Committee presented the 2008 activities report, giving a general view on the activities carried out by the Committee during the year: preparing a political document on social inclusion, a proposal for the creation of an Observatory on Social Inclusion, and a draft for the Global Charter-Agenda on Human Rights in the City; several actions for the articulation with the International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (IOPD) and with the Forum of Local Authorities (FLA); and the participation in several international events.

ROCÍO LÓPEZ, head of the Citizen Participation Department of the City Council of Cordoba, took the floor to inform that the Committee has made very little progress over the last year regarding citizen participation. The proposal to prepare a participation agenda, made by the Working Group on Participatory Democracy, has not yet been specified in any document.

3. SOCIAL INCLUSION IN UCLG: FROM ISTANBUL TO MEXICO DF

3. 1. POLICY PAPER ON SOCIAL INCLUSION

RICARD GOMÀ summarized the content of the document and pointed out the fact that it was prepared in a participatory way. He thanked the cities and institutions for their contributions and informed that all these contributions have been taken into account in the document. Next, he

mentioned the 4 basic ideas in the document: local social inclusion policies as a combination of local and global means to fight against social exclusion; the role of social inclusion policies in promoting equality based on the respect of diversity; social inclusion policies as a space for participatory discussions among political actors and organized civil society. He also mentioned the fact that the UCLG World Council, at its meeting on November 30th, approved the document, which is a very important progress that will make it possible, at the next World Congress, for social inclusion to be a monographic axis.

ELÓI PIETÁ, outgoing mayor of Guarulhos and co-chair of the Committee, stressed the importance of this document being adopted by the organization and added that the political contribution of committees is essential for the organization to make progress.

KISHWAR SULTANA, from the Punjab Association of Local Governments (Pakistan), mentioned the need to create a Gender Committee within UCLG to ensure that gender issues are dealt with throughout UCLG documents and work.

MAGALI GIOVANNAGELI, 1st Deputy Mayor of Aubagne pointed out the existence of a Gender Committee in UCLG and warned of its lack of activity. Since gender inequalities continue to exist, she suggested the Social Inclusion Committee should deal with the issue directly and for the issue to be dealt with jointly with the Gender Committee once it resumes its work.

SOPHIA IMRAN, from the Punjab Association of Local Governments (Pakistan) added that gender issues should be dealt with in all UCLG committees in a coordinated way, since it is a crosscutting issue.

ROCÍO LOPÉZ asked what action had been planned for the document on social inclusion once it had been adopted and made the following proposal: to promote cities to endorse this document by discussing it in the City Hall meetings for each city, in order to roll out its content throughout the territory through concrete policies.

RICARD GOMÀ, after the interventions, invited all cities wishing to do so, to present a concrete proposal for the gender issue so that it can be discussed in the next Committee meeting. He added that the Observatory could also be used to gather the most relevant policies regarding the gender issue, and by analyzing them, interesting lessons could be made. He took note of the proposal made by Cordoba and added that another way of disseminating this document would be by presenting it in different thematic and territorial fora in order to gather the maximum political support for the 2010 World Congress.

ELÓI PIETÁ suggested that the gender issue be dealt with also more specifically in the Charter-Agenda.

HAZEL JENKINS, mayor of Pixley ka seme and Vice-Chair of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), mentioned the point that women are not sufficiently represented in the governing bodies of UCLG and its committees. She suggested there should be an equal representation of men and women in all UCLG governing bodies and committees. She proposed the creation of a political agenda within the framework of UCLG to promote the empowerment of women.

RICARD GOMÀ encouraged all the participants to discuss gender issues separately at the next Committee meeting, where a political stance may be taken regarding how UCLG should progress towards an equal representation of men and women in all its governing bodies.

ELÓI PIETÁ explained that, at the Jeju Congress, UCLG committed to appoint a woman as vice-chair of the organization and that this has not yet been done. He mentioned the need to raise this issue at the World Council meeting the following day.

BERTRAND GALLET, General Director of Cités Unies France, speaking as a member of the UCLG's Committee on Statutory issues, explained that in the meeting held the previous day the issue was brought up and the conclusion that was reached was that it was necessary to include the obligation to appoint an equal representation of women and men in all of UCLG's governing bodies in the Statutes. He encouraged people to raise the issue at the next World Congress meeting so that some progress is made.

SOPHIA IMRAN pointed out that this is not only an issue about quotas, but rather that the issue should be included in UCLG political documents to ensure that the organization is efficient and inclusive for women.

ELÓI PIETÁ closed this point on the agenda by adopting the commitment to bring up this issue in the World Council meeting the following day.

3. 2. OBSERVATORY ON SOCIAL INCLUSION

RICARD GOMÀ explained the proposal to create a Social Inclusion Observatory, pointing out that this proposal was made at the "1st International Seminar on Innovative Social Inclusion Policies" (Barcelona, 2007). For the preparation of this seminar, 50 social inclusion policies were looked at and the conclusion was that, since there is a large amount of local social inclusion policies, a tool should be created to know, systemize and interpret these policies in order to learn from them and establish action guidelines. The Observatory will be lead by a promotion group, including several Committee members (Provincial Council of Malaga, Province of Milan, Saint-Denis and the Catalan Government). **RICARD GOMÀ** extended a formal invitation to the participants to join the group if they wish. He concluded his intervention by pointing out the planned content for this Observatory.

XAVIER GODÀS, Head of the Ricard Gomà Bureau, mentioned that the Committee has had, until present, a relevant role in political statements and promotion, and that with the creation of this Observatory, an important step is being taken that will make it possible to offer technical support to local governments when preparing their social inclusion policies.

ROCÍO LOMBERA, Executive Director of COPEVI, stated that, since 2004, Mexico City has been promoting a Local Observatory for Social Inclusion (LOSI) with the support from COPEVI and that Ecatepec is developing a similar tool. She offered to share with the Committee the methodology COPEVI is using to develop these observatories.

MAGALI GIOVANAGELI stressed the need for international observatories, since they allow establishing ties between cities and helping each other develop policies, setting the IOPD as a good example.

RUBÉN GARCÍA, the International Relations Director in Montevideo, offered the Committee the Montevideo Social Inclusion Observatory, which was created some years ago from a URB-AL project.

RICARDO BAPTISTA, the Executive Director of the Mexican Association of Local Authorities (AALMAC) offered to promote this initiative among the members of his association (over 400 Mexican municipalities).

ANTONIO ZURITA, in charge of Decentralized Cooperation at ART-UNDP, explained that ART is a UNDP initiative that has a bank of good practices in social inclusion that will be made available to the Observatory to join efforts.

SARA HOEFELICH, from the UCLG's World Secretariat, mentioned that the organization and several of its committees are promoting several similar initiatives to boost the capacity to provide information and tools that are interesting for local governments. She suggested that all the tools that are created may be accessed through the UCLG website to gain a greater dissemination.

SOPHIA IMRAN asked for details on how the Observatory works.

GÉRARD PERREAU, 1st Deputy Mayor of Nanterre, while recognizing the usefulness of these observatories, added that they should be promoted using the gathered information and a reflection on the causes behind exclusion and how the effects of globalization lead to new forms of exclusion. This reflection will allow defining more efficient actions to fight against exclusion.

RICARD GOMÀ considered all contributions and committed to present a more advanced proposal for the Observatory at the next Committee meeting, where its structure, functioning and working plan will be detailed.

FELIPE LLAMAS, from the Andalusian Foundation of Municipalities for International Solidarity (FAMSI), stressed the need to generate synergies between the Observatory, the IOPD and other UCLG committees (like the Millennium Goals Committee).

ELÓI PIETÀ added the Periphery Committee to the abovementioned.

3. 3. UCLG WORLD CONGRESS (2010)

IRMA DIOLI, Member of the Parliament of Milan, stressed the importance in the social inclusion document being approved the following day at the World Congress meeting and that one of its plenary debates (which took place that same morning) dealt with the issue of social inclusion. She also mentioned the challenge of reaching 2010 with a wide commitment from local governments regarding this issue and reported that the Observatory on Social Inclusion will make it possible to present a study on this subject to the Congress, that will be complementary to the political work carried out by the committee with a practical tool.

4. THE RIGHT TO THE CITY: "THE WORLD CHARTER-AGENDA ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CITY"

JACQUES AXIETTE, President of the Pays de la Loire Region stated that his institution took on a leading role for the Charter-Agenda at the 2nd UCLG World Congress. Coordinating this was the International Permanent Secretariat "Human Rights and Local Governments", a structure promoted by the city of Nantes, the Department of Loire Atlantique and the Region of Pays de la

Loire. The objective of the Charter-Agenda is to make human rights effective at a local level and to provide local governments with some action guidelines to help them implement human rights. A group of experts from different areas around the world have prepared a draft of the Charter-Agenda that will now have to be politically debated in the framework of the Committee. For the Mexico Congress, a document based on broad consensus is intended that UCLG can handle. Over the next months, a virtual participatory procedure will be launched in order to discuss the current draft. After the previous discussion on this issue, he suggested a first amendment for the text: a specific article on gender equality, rather than this issue is disseminated throughout the document. He mentioned the rights included in the current draft, i.e.: the right to the city; the right to participatory democracy; children's rights; public services rights; the right to education, culture and diversity; the right to housing and homes, the right to water, energy and food; the right to the environment, public transport and to a sustainable urban development. The final dispositions are linked to the establishment of follow-up and assessment mechanisms for the Charter-Agenda and to the role of cities in promoting human rights at an international level.

ELÓI PIETÁ pointed out the proposal that the Charter-Agenda marks an important progress in the work done by the Committee and suggested that further work should be done on the text in order to provide the World Congress with a shared document.

HAZEL JENKINS requested including the issue of accessibility for disabled people in the document.

GIOVANNI ALLEGRETTI, researcher at the Social Studies Centre (CES) of the University of Coimbra, suggested a new discussion topic for the Committee: the right to nature, which had already been recognized by some of the most recent constitutions (Ecuador or Bolivia).

GÉRARD PERREAU mentioned the link between the Charter-Agenda and the Observatory: whilst the Observatory would focus on analyzing existing practices and detecting their weak points, the Charter-Agenda could define new commitments that would allow to improve local policies. He presented the initiative taken by the Committee on Peripheral Cities, chaired by Nanterre, to create a Charter for Solidary Metropolis, pointing out that this could be an interesting complement for the Charter-Agenda since it deals specifically with the issue of periphery.

FRANCK BARRAU, Director of the International Permanent Secretariat "Human Rights and Local Governments", mentioned the website where the virtual participatory procedure will be done up to September 2009: www.spidh.org.

ELÓI PIETÁ requested the secretariat to provide this website to all members.

FRANCK BARRAU added that he hopes UCLG will contribute to disseminate this project and to help it gain political strength.

EVA GARCIA CHUECA replied that UCLG has shown an interest in this project. The procedure to be followed will be similar to the one used for the policy paper on social inclusion, that was prepared at the Committee and was then shared with UCLG throughout its regional sections and committees. She added that the Charter-Agenda would also be discussed at the 8th FLA.

5. TOWARDS A LOCAL AGENDA FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND THE ARTICULATION WITH THE INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATORY ON PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY (IOPD)

JOSÉ LUÍS GUTIÉRREZ CUREÑO, Mayor of Ecatepec de Morelos, explained the efforts that had been made by the Working Group on Participatory Democracy to enhance articulation with the IOPD. He mentioned that the next objective is to prepare a joint policy paper on citizen participation, to be presented at the next UCLG Congress.

ALEJANDRO LUÉVANO, Technical Secretary of AALMAC, added information by mentioning that some contributions have been made to the Committee's framework document on participatory democracy (that was prepared by the FLA Network, more specifically, by Montevideo, Cordoba and Belo Horizonte) and that, next, they focused on the articulation with the IOPD. He brought forward the proposal to prepare a policy paper on participatory democracy, also to hold a Committee meeting in the framework of the next IOPD Annual Conference (October, Regio Emilia - Italy), where they hope to present the political document for its debate.

ANDRÉS FALCK, the person in charge of Cooperation at the Provincial Council of Malaga, pointed out the existence of several international networks dealing with the issue of participatory democracy (the Committee, the IOPD and the FLA) and even specific networks on participatory budgets (in Spain, Portugal and Brazil). He informed of a meeting that is to take place in December in Belo Horizonte to create a global platform for participatory budgets networks. He suggested that these spaces are adequately articulated.

SOPHIA IMRAN valued positively the different documents that had been prepared, but added that it may be interesting to define some indicators to assess local policies and thus improve them.

XAVIER GODÀS suggested inviting the IOPD to be an integral part of the Committee.

EVA GARCIA CHUECA explained that the Observatory has planned to define these assessment indicators for social inclusion policies and that one of the main points of articulation with the IOPD will also be to work together to get some assessment indicators for participatory procedures.

ALEJANDRO LUÉVANO called on cities present at the meeting to join the Working Group on Participatory Democracy.

ELÓI PIETÁ added that the Working Groups on Social Inclusion (lead by Barcelona) could also be invited to join, as well as the Working Group on Human Rights and Local Governments, lead by the International Permanent Secretariat "Human Rights and Local Governments".

6. THE CHALLENGE OF NETWORKING: A PROPOSAL FOR IMPROVEMENT OF THE WORKING OF THE COMMITTEE

EVA GARCIA CHUECA mentioned the difficulties in networking and suggested strengthening contact between the members and the secretariat, strengthening the participation of cities in committee meeting and to broaden the political leadership of the committee by creating a coordinating commission made up of the chair, vice-chairs and any cities wishing to join.

ROCÍO LÓPEZ offered to put Cordoba on the coordinating commission.

7. 8TH FORUM OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES (FLA)

MIGUEL ESTEBAN, the Vice-Chair of the Provincial Council of Malaga, made an announcement for the 8th Forum of Local Authorities (Belém, 31 March 2009) and presented the topics for the seminars: social inclusion and human rights; participatory democracy; decentralized cooperation, solidary and sustainable territories and public services. He informed that the Amazon Forum of Local Authorities (AFLA) would be held on 30 January to specifically deal with the main challenges the Amazon is facing and to strengthen strategic alliances in the Andean-Amazon region. He pointed out that the Provincial Council of Malaga is, since 2002, an active member of the FLA network and the first Spanish provincial authority to have created a participatory budget office. The Provincial Council of Malaga has also promoted the creation of the Spanish Network of Participatory Budgets and has supported the strengthening of the FLA.

ANTONIO ZURITA thanked the invitation to taking part in the meeting and congratulated the committee for all the work done. He announced that the UNDP would support the FLA / AFLA, ensuring the participation of local governments it is working with through ART.

ALEJANDRO LUÉVANO, taking into account that Elói Pietá will be stepping down at the end of the year, thanked him for all the hard work he has promoted while chairing the Committee.

RICARD GOMÀ also thanked ELÓI PIETÁ and, agreeing with the words of ANTONIO ZURITA, pointed out that we should congratulate ourselves for the quality of the work carried out by the Committee.

ELÓI PIETÁ suggested that the Frente Nacional de Prefeitos (National Prefecture Front) he is currently co-chairing, takes on the Chair of the Committee once he has stepped down as Mayor of Guarulhos.

PATRICK JARRY, the Mayor of Nanterre, mentioned the workshops that the Forum of Periphery Local Authorities (PFLA) will be organizing for the World Social Forum (WSF) together with AITEC. He stressed that the meeting between local governments, especially those in the periphery, and social movements is extremely necessary in the current crisis context, since its effects are most visible in the periphery of cities.

NAZARÉ IMBIRIBA, the Director for International Cooperation for the Government of Pará (Brazil), invited the attendees to the AFLA and pointed out the website where they can register for the meeting: www.falfala.org. She also pointed out that it was thanks financing partners such as FAMSI or the Catalan Cooperation Agency that they were able to ensure a wide representation of Latin-American, Caribbean and African cities.

ANNEX: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

AFRICA		
South Africa	South African Local Government Association	Hazel Jenkins Xolile George
LATIN AMERICA		
Brazil	Guarulhos	Elói Pietá
Mexico	AALMAC - Local Government Association of Mexico	Ricardo Baptista Alejandro Luévano
	COPEVI	Rocío Lombera
	Ecatepec de Morelos	José Luis Gutiérrez Cureño
	State Government of Chiapas	Mauro Valle Alberto Hernández Rodríguez
Uruguay	Montevideo	Ricardo Ehrlich Rubén García
MIDDLE EAST- WEST ASIA		
Pakistan	Local Councils Association of Punjab	Sophia Imran Shahnaz Amin Kishwar Sultana
Turkey	Union of Municipalities of the Marmara Region	Osman Erol Ince
	University of Istanbul	M. S. Emin
EUROPE		
Spain	Barcelona	Ricard Gomà Xavier Godàs
	Córdoba	Rafael Morales Rocío López Lozano
	Diputación de Málaga	Miguel E. Martín Andrés Falck
	FAMSI	Felipe Llamas
	Northern Pole - Forum of Local Authorities	José Manuel Luque Eva Garcia Sempere Pedro Ortega
France	Assemblée des Départements de France	Elisabeth Barincou
	Aubagne	Magali Giovanageli Slimane Toudert
	Bobigny	Djamel Sandid
	CUF - Cités Unies France	Bertrand Gallet
	Conseil Général Seine-Saint-Denis	Hugues Latron
	Conseil Général Val de Marne	Marie Christine Delacroix
	Conseil de Paris	Geneviève Bertrand
	Nanterre	Patrick Jarry Gerard Perreau Bezouille
	Région de Pays de la Loire	Jacques Auxiette Philippe Doux
Italy	International Permanent Secretariat "Human Rights and Local Governments"	Franck Barrau Adeline Cheriff
	AICCRE - Italian Section of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions	Fabio Pellegrini
	CICU - Italian Committee of United Cities	Gianpaolo Morello
	Italian Coordination of Local Authorities for Peace and Human Rights	Laura Lotti
	Provincia de Milano	Irma Dioli Guido Milani Silvia Ragazze
Portugal	Regione Toscana	Mauro Perini
	Coimbra	Giovanni Allegretti
OTHERS		
UCLG	World Secretariat	Sara Hoeflich
UNDP	Programme ART	Antonio Zurita