



UCLG Committee on Social  
Inclusion and Participative Democracy

**COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL INCLUSION  
AND PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY**

**2<sup>ND</sup> BIENNIAL MEETING 2008**

**29 NOVEMBER 2008, ISTANBUL**

<b>Work documents</b>
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1. Agenda
2. Work Plan 2008 – 2010
3. Minutes of the 1st Biannual Committee Meeting
4. Activities Report 2008
5. Policy paper on social inclusion and list of contributing countries
6. Proposal for the creation of an Observatory for Social Inclusion
7. World Charter-Agenda on Human Rights in the City
8. Proposal for articulation between the Commission and the IOPD
9. Proposal to improve the networking of the Committee
10. List of Committee Members

<b>1. AGENDA</b>
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1. Approval of the 1<sup>st</sup> Biannual Meeting Minutes
2. Activities Report 2008
3. Social Inclusion in UCLG: from Istanbul to Santiago de Chile
  - Policy paper on social inclusion
  - Observatory for Social Inclusion
  - UCLG World Congress (2010)
4. The right to the city: the “World Charter-Agenda on Human Rights in the City”
5. Towards a local agenda for citizen participation
6. The 8<sup>th</sup> Forum of Local Authorities (FLA)
7. Articulation between the Committee and the International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (IOPD)
8. The challenge of networking: proposal to improve the work of the Committee
9. Other issues

## 2. WORK PLAN 2008 - 2010

### 1. Mission and background

The mission of the Committee on Social Inclusion and Participative Democracy (CSIPD) of the worldwide organisation “United Cities and Local Governments” (UCLG) is to study the following emerging urban issues in depth: (i) the institutional response by local authorities to urban poverty and exclusion through the design of local social inclusion policies; (ii) the strengthening of democratic quality by means of policies promoting citizen participation; and (iii) the role of local authorities as guarantors of human rights in the city.

The origin of the CSIPD is to be found in the Forum of Local Authorities (FLA), a space for reflection and political discussion among local authorities the world over which has been held simultaneously with the World Social Forum since 2001. Among the objectives of the FLA Network is to build and develop, alongside civil society, public management alternatives that foster social inclusion and participatory democracy<sup>1</sup>. The FLA promoted the creation of the CSIPD in 2005 within the framework of the UCLG Executive Bureau meeting, held in Beijing.

Throughout the first working period (2005–2007), the CSIPD promoted participation of the UCLG in the World Social Forums held in Caracas (Venezuela, 2006) and Nairobi (Kenya, 2007); it contributed to the organisation of the last two editions of the FLA (Caracas and Nairobi); has created and promoted three working groups (Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy, and Global Citizenship – human rights and immigration) which generated debate and the conceptual definition of these central themes; and, finally, the CSIPD organised the “1st International Seminar on Innovative Local Policies for Social Inclusion” (Barcelona, 2007), as a result of which a policy position document was drawn up on the subject of social inclusion which will be discussed at UCLG Executive Bureau meetings throughout 2008.

The CSIPD currently comprises more than sixty cities in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East.

### 2. Working Plan 2008 – 2010

During the 2nd UCLG World Congress held in Jeju (South Korea) from 28 to 31 October 2007, the CSIPD proudly presented the results of work carried out from 2005 to 2007. For the present mandate (2008 – 2010), the CSIPD has defined the following Working Plan, made up of 6 strategic objectives and 27 action undertakings.

#### **a) Promote the creation and exchange of innovative policies of social inclusion and strengthen the definition of concepts, policies and practices in the area of social inclusion**

- ✓ Enlarge the database of social inclusion policies by means of collecting and systemising inclusion policies that seek to broaden citizen participation, drawing up agreed policies with organised civil society and fostering multisectoral policies. This database currently contains a total of 54 documented policies.
- ✓ Carry out an assessment of the collected policies with the aim of extracting lines to promote social inclusion policies in the local area. Draw up indicators of social exclusion and inclusion. Design and organise a social inclusion observatory in cities.
- ✓ Disseminate the results of the “1st International Seminar on Innovative Local Policies for Social Inclusion” (Barcelona, 27-28 September, 2007) through, (i) publication of a cross-policy analysis of the 15 policies presented and discussed in the Seminar; and (ii) presentation and discussion within the framework of the UCLG of the policy position text in the area of social inclusion that resulted from the Seminar debates. The document is intended to position the UCLG regarding how to define and approach inclusion policies in

<sup>1</sup> For further information about the FLA Network, visit the website [www.redfal.org](http://www.redfal.org)

the framework of the organisation, and should serve as the basis of exchanges between the UCLG and other international organisations and/or agencies.

- ✓ Contribute to the organisation of the 6th International Conference of the AERYC (American-European Association of Regions and Cities) on “Social Cohesion and Democratic Governance: Towards More Inclusive Cities and Regions” (Barcelona, 28-29 November, 2008).
- ✓ Organise the “1st International Congress on Innovative Policies for Social Inclusion” (Barcelona, 2010).

***b) Encourage the creation and exchange of innovative policies relating to participatory democracy and strengthen the definition of concepts, policies and practices in the area of participatory democracy***

- ✓ Define a policy position document on participatory democracy.
- ✓ Define a policy proposal on participative democracy and put it on the agendas of local governments and associations, State legislation frameworks and multilateral bodies. Analyse the state of incorporation of the proposal in local policy agendas.
- ✓ Coordinate the CSIPD's work with that of the International Observatory of Participatory Democracy (IOPD). Actively participate in the organisation of the 8th Annual Conference of the IOPD “Interculturalism and Citizen Participation” (La Paz, 19-21 November, 2008).
- ✓ Disseminate the results of work, especially within organised civil society.

***c) Encourage the engagement of local governments towards Human Rights and draft a “Worldwide Charter-Agenda of Human Rights in the City”***

- ✓ Draw up a text with a worldwide, multicultural perspective that includes a list of 8 - 10 fundamental human rights that all cities should recognise, protect and implement.
- ✓ Draw up an “agenda” or municipal action programme for each human right recognised in the Charter-Agenda, defining the municipal undertakings necessary to implement the Charter of Human Rights. Define a working calendar for the “agenda” or municipal action programme and design indicators that will enable evaluation of the degree of success achieved in the implementation of the Charter-Agenda.
- ✓ Involve a large number and variety of actors in the process of consideration and preparation of the Charter-Agenda (local authorities, social movements, international organisations, civil society and experts the world over) via an online web exchange platform that legitimises the result of the project.
- ✓ Obtain a real and effective political commitment from the local authorities involved. Disseminate the Charter-Agenda on a global scale and implement it on a local scale by means of the adoption of city by-laws and the design of inclusive local policies.
- ✓ Participate in the organisation of the 6<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Human Rights in the City (Geneva, 8 – 9 December 2008) and stimulate the dissemination and implementation of the “European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City”.

***d) Define a communication strategy for the CSIPD***

- ✓ Create and implement a website for the CSIPD. Manage and update its contents. Actively promote the online debate forum.
- ✓ Draw up monthly news bulletins that foster dissemination of the work of the CSIPD.
- ✓ Create dissemination material (leaflets, dossiers, etc.).

- ✓ Coordinate the publications resulting from the CSIPD's work.

**e) Coordinate the work of the CSIPD with UCLG policies**

- ✓ Contribute towards implementation of the UCLG Working Plan, especially those objectives related with the CSIPD's central themes. Work for social inclusion to be the main topic at the UCLG World Council (Istanbul, 2008) and at the 2nd UCLG World Council (Chile, 2010).
- ✓ Disseminate the CSIPD's work throughout the UCLG.
- ✓ Coordinate the CSIPD's work with the regional sections of the UCLG and other committees and/or working groups, especially the Peripheral Cities Committee, the Decentralised Cooperation Committee and the Millennium Development Goals Committee.

**f) Structure the CSIPD's work within that of other international networks and organisations**

- ✓ FLA Network: Contribute to the organisation of subject-specific seminars and provide technical assistance for the organisation of the Forums of Local Authorities.
- ✓ IOPD: Form part of the Jury of the 3rd Distinction for "Best Practices in Citizen Participation". Participate actively in the organisation of the 8th Annual Conference of the IOPD (La Paz, 19-21 November, 2008). Promote the exchange of information and notify CSIPD members of IOPD activities. Draw up other collaboration agreements.
- ✓ UN-Habitat and UNESCO: Establish lines of collaboration with these agencies within the framework of an agreement entered into with the UCLG. Participate actively in the 4th World Urban Forum (Nanjing, 3-7 November, 2008).
- ✓ URB-AL: Collaborate with the implementation of URB-AL projects that contribute to promoting social inclusion, participative democracy and/or human rights in the city
- ✓ Foster coordination of the CSIPD with other international networks and organisations with similar aims to those of the Committee. Promote CSIPD contacts with universities specialising in the Committee's central themes.

### **3. Organisation and operation**

#### **3.1. Composition**

The CSIPD is made up of:

- Local authorities (elected on an individual basis or associations of local authorities)
- Collaborators (institutions, organisations and experts)

Committee members have access to CSIPD data, information and documentation. Membership in the CSIPD is free and should be formalised via the UCLG World Secretariat.

The government structure of the CSIPD will ensure the proper geographical representation of Committee members and will promote membership of the UCLG by those members who only form part of the CSIPD.

As at the date of March 2008, the CSIPD comprises more than sixty local authorities from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East<sup>2</sup>.

#### **3.2. Government structure**

Presidency

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<sup>2</sup> See the list of members in the attached document.

- Barcelona (Spain)
- Guarulhos (Brazil)

Vice-Presidencies

- Saint Denis (France)
- Provincia de Milano (Italy)
- Ecatepec de Morelos (Mexico)

Working Groups

- Social Inclusion (Barcelona)
- Participatory Democracy (Ecatepec de Morelos)
- Human Rights and Local Governments (Nantes – Pays de la Loire)

Plenary of the Committee

Technical-Executive Secretary

- Barcelona (Spain)

The Coordination Committee comprises the cities that hold the Presidency, the Vice-Presidencies and those chairing the Working Groups.

### **3.3. Functions**

Plenary of the Committee:

- ✓ Define the policies of the CSIPD.
- ✓ Promote and disseminate the mission of the CSIPD.
- ✓ Propose and implement the Working Plan.
- ✓ Participate in activities organised by the CSIPD.
- ✓ Support the Executive Technical Secretariat in the general performance of its tasks.

Presidency and Vice-Presidencies:

Perform the general tasks of the members and the following specific tasks:

- ✓ Represent the policies of the CSIPD.
- ✓ Coordinate the policies of the CSIPD with UCLG and other international organisations and networks.

Coordination Committee:

Perform the general tasks of the members and the following specific tasks:

- ✓ Accompany the Executive Technical Secretariat in the performance of its executive functions.
- ✓ Guarantee the continuity of the CSIPD between the two biannual meetings.

Executive Technical Secretary:

- ✓ Promote and coordinate implementation of the Working Plan. Encourage the Working Groups and provide technical assistance to their members.
- ✓ Promote a campaign defining concepts, policies and practices in the field of social inclusion, participatory democracy and human rights in the city. Organise an annual seminar addressing these subjects.
- ✓ Oversee coordination of the CSIPD within the framework of the UCLG Working Plan.
- ✓ Foster relationships and joint work with other international networks and organisations.
- ✓ Call biannual meetings of the CSIPD and monitor the subjects addressed in the two CSIPD biannual meetings.
- ✓ Define and implement the CSIPD communications strategy.

### **3. 4. Operation**

The CSIPD meets twice a year to coordinate and monitor development of the Working Plan. As far as possible, one CSIPD meeting will be held alongside those of the Executive Bureau and the UCLG World Council, while the other will coincide with a subject-specific activity organised by an international network or organisation with which the CSIPD coordinates its work. CSIPD policy and strategic orientation will be established during these two meetings. Decisions will be taken by consensus or, failing this, by absolute majority. The Executive Technical Secretary will duly inform CSIPD members who are unable to attend the biannual meetings of the business transacted.

Likewise, the CSIPD may meet around those activities in which several of its members coincide. The Executive Technical Secretary will inform remaining members of the CSIPD of any proposals arising from such meetings in order that they may evaluate same.

The official languages of the CSIPD are Spanish, English and French. Financing of the CSIPD must be ensured through its Presidency.

### **4. Budget**

Barcelona City Council has assumed the financing of CSIPD during the 2008 – 2010 mandate. The economic provision for 2008 amounts to 100,000 €.

## 5. International activities calendar

2008	
<b>January</b>	
24-25	Forum of Local Authorities on the Defense and Promotion of Public Services, Cordoba (Spain)
26	Global Day of Mobilisation and Action
<b>February</b>	
13-16	World Conference on the Development of Cities, Porto Alegre (Brazil)
<b>March</b>	
26-28	6th Forum of the World Alliance of Cities Against Poverty, Athens (Greece)
<b>April</b>	
4 - 5	1st International Seminar on Experiences of Participatory Budgets, Bergamo (Italy)
17 - 18	Meeting of UCLG Committees' and Working Groups' Secretariats
<b>May</b>	
<b>June</b>	
17 - 18	Conference on "Building Political Will for Participatory Governance", CIVICUS / World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Glasgow (Scotland)
30 junio - 3 julio	3rd World Forum on Human Rights, Nantes (France)
<b>July</b>	
9 - 10	UCLG Executive Bureau, Quito (Ecuador)
<b>August</b>	
27 - 30	4th Latin American Congress of Cities and Local Governments, México D. F. (México)
<b>September</b>	
11 - 12	3rd World Social Forum on Migrations, Rivas Vaciamadrid (España) and Forum of Local Authorities on Multiculturalism (Educating Cities Network)
17 - 21	European Social Forum, Malmö (Sweden)
<b>October</b>	
7-12	3rd Americas Social Forum, Guatemala
<b>November</b>	
3 - 7	4th World Urban Forum, Nanjing (China)
19 - 21	8th Annual Conference of the International Observatory on Participatory Democracy, La Paz (Bolivia)
27 - 30	UCLG World Council and 2nd Semestral Meeting of the Committee on Social Inclusion (Istanbul)
<b>December</b>	
1 - 2	6th Annual Conference of the Association <i>America-Europe of Cities and Regions</i> on "Social Cohesion and Democratic Governance: Towards More Inclusive Regions and Cities", Barcelona (España)
8 - 9	6th Conference on the European Charter on Human Rights in the City, Geneva (Switzerland)
2009	
<b>January</b>	
28 - 31	8th World Social Forum and 8th Forum of Local Authorities, Belém do Pará (Brasil)
2010	
<b>May</b>	
<i>to be determined</i>	Forum of Peripheral Local Authorities, Getafe (España)

### **3. MINUTES OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> BIENNIAL COMMITTEE MEETING**

The 1<sup>st</sup> Biannual Meeting of the Committee on Social Inclusion and Participative Democracy (CSIPD) of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) was held at the Casa della Pace in Milan (Italy) on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2008. The meeting was chaired by the City of Barcelona (Presidency), the province of Milan, Saint-Denis and Ecatepec de Morelos (Vice-Presidencies). A total of 26 people attended the meeting, representing the 16 members of the Committee<sup>3</sup>. The 2½-hour meeting (12noon-2.30pm) covered the following points<sup>4</sup>:

#### **1. Work and operation of the CSIPD**

- ✓ Those attending the meeting, as well as the members of the Presidency and Vice-Presidencies, evaluated the work of the CSIPD throughout its first term (2005-2007) as positive. They also indicated the start of a new stage, which will be implemented between 2008 and 2010.
- ✓ The Working Plan 2008-2010 proposal, including the commitments to action of the CSIPD, its operation and structure, was evaluated as satisfactory. The proposed amendments have already been incorporated into the Working Plan 2008-2010<sup>5</sup>.
- ✓ After the presentation of the international calendar of activities, with emphasis on it comprising a large number of events, the idea arose for members to draft a report on those activities they attend. In this way, maximum dissemination of the information to the entire network is ensured as well as making the most of the events.
- ✓ Emphasis was given to the need to guarantee the continuity of CSIPD policies beyond the two biannual events and the informal meetings that take place. Thus, a proposal was put forward to reinforce the role of the Vice-Presidencies as representatives of CSIPD policies and CSIPD members, in general, were invited to also assume this responsibility within the framework of the activities in which they participate.

#### **2. Conclusions of the Seminar on Social Inclusion (Barcelona, September 2007)**

- ✓ The policy position document was presented, which includes the conclusions of the “1<sup>st</sup> International Seminar on Innovative Local Policies for Social Inclusion”, held in Barcelona on 27-28 September 2007. CSIPD members were informed that the text is open to comments and contributions before its official presentation before the governing bodies of UCLG. The CSIPD will present the policy position document within the framework of the UCLG World Council (Istanbul, Turkey). With this, the intention is for the text to position UCLG regarding how it should define and approach social inclusion policies within the framework of the organisation, as well as serving for the dialogue between UCLG and other international agencies and/or organisations.

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<sup>3</sup> See the list of attendees in Schedule 1.

<sup>4</sup> Schedule 2 contains the meeting agenda.

<sup>5</sup> See Schedule 3: Working Plan 2008-2010. The amendments made following the meeting are in red.

### 3. Important topics

- ✓ Emphasis was given to the need to include within the CSIPD framework the following topics relating to social inclusion, participative democracy and human rights:
  - public services as mechanisms of guaranteeing the rights of people in situations of social exclusion;
  - alternatives to unequal economic growth through dialogue with economic agents;
  - balancing work and family life;
  - accessible public transport.
- ✓ The objective was established of incorporating social inclusion as the key topic of the World Council in Istanbul (2008) and the World Council in Chile (2010).

### 4. Coordination of the CSIPD work with other networks

- ✓ On several occasions, emphasis was given to the importance of coordinating the work of the CSIPD with that of other international networks. On this matter, several proposals were made.
- ✓ Committee on Peripheral Cities (UCLG). The CSIPD will participate in the preparation of the "Interdependent Metropolises Charter" and will disseminate this process among its members; the CSIPD will also collaborate on the organisation of the next Peripheral Local Authorities Forum, to be held in Getafe (Spain) in May 2010.
- ✓ The International Observatory of Participatory Democracy (OIDP). The Working Group of Participatory Democracy, coordinated by Ecatepec de Morelos, will work together with the OIDP. Specifically, it will participate in the jury of the III Distinction "Best Practice in Citizen Participation" and will collaborate on the organisation of the VIII Annual OIDP Conference (La Paz, November 2008). For its part, it will invite the OIDP to contribute to creating the policy framework, envisaged in the Working Plan 2008-2010.
- ✓ FAL Network. IT is pointed out that coordination with the FAL Network is very important as it involves the coordination of the CSIPD with social movements, both international (World Social Forum) and local (network of partners of the cities). On the other hand, and regarding participative democracy, the invitation to the CSIPD from the FAL Network Participatory Budgeting Group to co-organise the "Conference on Participatory Democracy in the Dominican Republic" (October 2008) is highlighted.

### 5. The role of the committees within the general framework of the UCLG

- ✓ Several members of the CSIPD mentioned the need to reinforce the role of the committees in UCLG. These are more open spaces where the cities can contribute their work and proposals more easily.
- ✓ Information is given about the meeting of the Technical Secretariats of the Committees and Working Groups of UCLG, which will take place in Barcelona on 17 and 18 April. That a meeting should be periodically organised for the purpose of greater coordination of the work of the committees, is considered a very positive initiative.

Schedule

**List of those attending  
1<sup>a</sup> Biannual Meeting of the CSIPD**

ATTENDEES: 26 people

Region	Country	Municipality or organisation
Latin America	Brazil	Guarulhos / FAL (Southern Section)
	Chile	El Bosque / Chilean Association of Municipalities
	Mexico	Ecatepec de Morelos / Association of Municipalities of Mexico (AMMAC)
Europe	Spain	Barcelona
		Córdoba
		Diputación de Málaga
		FAMSI / FAL (Northern Section)
		Seville
	France	Nanterre / UCLG Committee on Peripheral Cities / FALP Network
		Nantes / Pays de la Loire
		Saint Denis
		Val de Marne
	Italy	Local Governments Cooperation Agency (ACEL)
		Province of Milan

#### 4. ACTIVITIES REPORT 2008

##### **Drawing up of a policy paper on social inclusion**

After a previous analysis and reflection on the existing social inclusion policies<sup>6</sup>, the Committee made a proposal for a political document aiming at providing a debate on social inclusion within UCLG. This debate was started in the UCLG Executive Bureau in Quito<sup>7</sup> and was extended to the regional sections and working committees of the organization. The result of this debate was a political position shared by local governments with regards to fighting poverty and social exclusion. Various committees took part in this political debate, which led to a crosscutting document that articulates social inclusion with other issues dealt with by UCLG such as periphery, urban mobility, strategic planning or social cohesion and peace.

This document underlines the problems of poverty and social inequality in cities throughout the world and also the need to place social inclusion policies on the centre stage of local governments' agendas. This is especially important for achieving the Millennium Development Goals set for the year 2015. It is essential that social inclusion policies deal with various thematic axes: including groups of excluded people or in risk of becoming excluded, protecting fundamental rights and building a more united society. It is essential for citizens to participate in designing and assessing these policies, for them to be more efficient and sustainable. This paper also makes a call to strengthen the coordination between the different levels of government and to decentralise political competences and financial resources.

The policy paper on social inclusion will be submitted to the World Council in Istanbul for approval.

##### **Towards an Observatory on Social Inclusion Policies**

The Committee has started working on the creation of the Observatory on Social Inclusion policies with the support from various local governments. Essentially, this Observatory will consist of a database on innovative local social inclusion policies, which will allow defining social inclusion and exclusion indicators. Also a study plan has been foreseen that will lead to the creation of useful tools for local governments for planning and implementing social inclusion policies. Up to present, 50 policies from cities in different regions worldwide have been compiled and documented.

##### **The World Charter Agenda on Human Rights in the City**

Drawing on previous initiatives at a regional level<sup>8</sup>, various local governments have promoted a world charter reflecting the political commitment of cities towards human rights. This document contains the basic range of human rights that local governments are committed to guarantee, together with an action plan for each of the rights. The human rights included in the charter agenda are: the right to the city; the right to citizen participation; the right to peace and security; childhood rights; the right to public services, 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 a sustainable urban development.

The document, currently a draft, is under political debate, both by local governments and by civil society and the academic world. In this sense, there will be a debate session with social movements in the framework of the World Social Forum / Forum of Local Authorities in 2009<sup>9</sup>.

<sup>6</sup> Compilation of and information on 50 innovative social inclusion policies developed in cities from the different regions in the world. Organisation of an international seminar with 200 participants ("1st International Seminar on Innovative Local Policies for Social Inclusion", Barcelona 27-28 September 2007).

<sup>7</sup> 9 & 10 July 2008.

<sup>8</sup> Mainly the World Charter on the Right to the City, Montreal's Charter on Rights and Responsibilities and the European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City.

<sup>9</sup> Belém, Brazil. 28 – 30 January 2008

### **The role of local governments in promoting citizen participation**

The links with and collaboration with the International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (IOPD) have been strengthened<sup>10</sup>. The compilation of practices in citizen participation gathered by the IOPD has been shared with the cities represented in the Committee in order to inspire a local agenda for citizen participation. Various cities have initiated debates to design this agenda inside the Committee.

### **Articulation with the Local Authorities Forum (LAF)**

The Commission has continued to work closely with the Local Authorities Forum and has reaffirmed its wish to network with social movements and organized civil society through this network. In this sense, the Commission has actively taken part in several of the international activities promoted by the LAF<sup>11</sup> and is cooperating in the preparatory tasks for the 8th Local Authorities Forum (Belém, January 2009).

### **A greater visibility for the Commission**

With the goal of disseminating the Commission's work and attracting new members, the Commission has taken part in various international events: the Local Authorities Forum on the defense and promotion of public services (Córdoba); the World Conference for the Development of Cities (Porto Alegre); the 1st International Seminar on Experience with Participatory Budgets (Bergamo); the Annual Conference of the Observatory for Decentralized Cooperation EU – LA (Barcelona); the 1st World Conference on City Diplomacy (The Hague); the Conference on Participatory Governance (Glasgow); the 3rd World Forum on Human Rights (Nantes); the UCLG Executive Bureau (Quito); the 4th Latin-American Congress of Cities and Local Governments (Mexico City); the UCLG World Council (Istanbul); the 4th Conference of the "American and European Association of Regions and Cities - AERYC" (Barcelona); the 4th Conference on the European Charter for Human Rights in the City (Geneva).

As for the communication strategy, a web page has been created<sup>12</sup>, as well as various dissemination materials (information leaflets, folders, posters, and the publishing of the conclusions of the 1st International Seminar on Innovative Social Inclusion Policies, Barcelona).

### **2009 - 2010 Prospective**

- ✓ Discuss social inclusion in the framework of the whole worldwide organisation, especially at the 3rd UCLG World Congress (2010).
- ✓ Create the Observatory on Social Inclusion policies.
- ✓ Approve the 'World Charter Agenda on Human Rights in the City', disseminate it and promote its implementation in cities.
- ✓ Prepare the local agenda for citizen participation and have an impact on the agendas of local governments.
- ✓ Present the work carried out and advance in the political reflection with an international congress to be held in Barcelona in 2010.

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<sup>10</sup> The Committee has been invited to be part of the Jury of the 3rd IOPD Distinction "Good Practice in Citizen Participation" and to take part in the 7th Annual IOPD Conference (La Paz, 19-21 November 2008).

<sup>11</sup> V. In the following chapter are the activities held in Córdoba, Bergamo and Mexico D. F.

<sup>12</sup> [www.cities-localgovernments.org/CISDP](http://www.cities-localgovernments.org/CISDP)

## 5. POLICY PAPER ON SOCIAL INCLUSION

*This document draws on the conclusions of the '1st International Seminar on Innovative Local Policies for Social Inclusion' (Barcelona, 27-28 September 2007)<sup>13</sup> and on the political reflections developed in the framework of United Cities and Local Governments through its regional sections and work committees. It sets out the main political guidelines to be followed while conceiving of, and developing, public policies for social inclusion. It also sets the stance of the UCLG regarding this issue and offers guidance for dialogue with other international organizations or agencies.*

### Inclusion policies as a global social policy

1. **Local governments play a key role in a globalized world** where most of the population lives in cities and metropolitan areas. This is a world facing new social, economic, political and cultural complexities, with new and diverse challenges and opportunities. Nonetheless, the current era of globalization brings inequalities into the light; in fact, poverty and social inequality have increased in all continents since the last decades of the 20th Century, thus leading to the social exclusion of many people.
2. **Social exclusion is the process by which certain people and groups find their access to basic citizens' rights systematically blocked** (civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights). Therefore, exclusion has various dimensions: social, economic, political, cultural, relational, digital, generational and gender-based. It is also expressed in various forms: poverty, instability at the workplace, educational shortfalls; disabilities, dependency and a work overload while caring for the home; gender-based discrimination, sexual orientation, religion or ethnic origin; a weakening of community relationships and the fall of affective ties; gaps among citizens based on ethnic and cultural issues; a lack in the provision of high quality basic services; and a loss of cultural expressions.
3. From local political actions it is possible to build closely knitted and democratic societies that ensure the full exercise of rights. That is why social exclusion should be tackled from its underlying causes. In order to do this, **social inclusion policies should be a centrepiece of the political agendas of local governments in this century, together with the human and financial resources, and infrastructure necessary to make this possible.** This is especially important for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals to be a reality in our cities, and thus, in the world in which we live in.

### Inclusion policies as a guarantee to ascertain rights

4. **Social exclusion is visible in territories.** In the deteriorated historical centres and outskirts of big cities, especially in their metropolitan areas, in the proliferation of 'shanty towns', 'favelas' or 'Villas'. In the undocumented conditions many migrants find themselves in. In the unequal treatment and discrimination towards women, different sexual orientations and minority ethnic and social groups. In the total lack of policies for equal opportunities for young people in risk of social exclusion. In the lack of care for children and elderly people. In the inadequacy of public spaces and services for disabled people. In the inaccessibility to public transport, especially for those who are socially or economically disadvantaged.

<sup>13</sup> This seminar was organized by the City Council of Barcelona and UCLG's Social Inclusion and Participatory Democracy Committee, with the support from the Catalan Government and scientific assessment from the DPU (Development Planning Unit) of the University College of London. At this seminar there were participants from Eldoret (Kenya), Rosario (Argentina), Diyarbakir (Turkey), London (United Kingdom), Belo Horizonte and Porto Alegre (Brazil), Palmela (Portugal), Tacoma (United States of America), Cotacachi (Ecuador), Barcelona (Spain), Saint Denis (France) and Bandung (Indonesia). The representatives of these 12 cities, each with different realities, explained their different inclusion policies and at the same time had the mission to make a joint reflection on three thematic axes: (i) social justice and safeguarding rights; (ii) citizen participation and generating social networks; (iii) planning and sustainability of policies.

5. As a consequence of all this, from the viewpoint of their conception and management criteria, **inclusion policies should guarantee universal access to basic services and the safeguard of citizens' rights**; also, they must be guided towards changing social reality based on the values of equality, solidarity and respect for differences; and finally, they must be committed to the world's future, promoting sustainable development and fighting against climate change.
6. **Inclusion policies are aimed at meeting both the material needs necessary to live a decent life, and those needs linked to social ties.** It is in these policies that we must intertwine social diversity and the right to be different, by promoting equal relationships in order to reduce economic, social and cultural gaps. Particularly, social inclusion policies should guarantee a cut-down of poverty and generate occupation and income; they must promote health, personal autonomy, care for dependant people and support to their families; they must guarantee that disabled people can live an autonomous and decent life; they must allow for people to combine time dedicated to a paid job, care and bringing up their children with time for leisure; they must protect children and vulnerable elderly people; they must render access to culture, information and ongoing training more democratic; they must develop an urban model based on relationships of proximity and an accessible and sustainable mobility through high quality public transport; and, finally, they must promote democracy and a critical, participatory and co-responsible society.
7. Exclusion can also be seen in the spatial segregation of population and in the privatisation of public spaces. For this reason, **inclusive policies must set the goal of achieving an integrating urbanism policy that is respectful for social diversity** avoiding the creation of segmented population concentrations, whether they are for ethnic and cultural reasons or social reasons. It is necessary to fight spatial segregation through actions such as: a comprehensive rehabilitation of neighbourhoods; creating high quality public spaces and facilities for the least favoured urban areas; promoting different uses for the land; promoting social cohabitation regarding housing, in order for people with different origins and social and economic standards to share one same territory; to eliminate architectural barriers that may isolate certain neighbourhoods; and, finally, to take into account gender factors in urban planning.
8. In relation to this issue, it is important to mention metropolitan areas, since they constitute urban, social and economic continuums that are vital to the current conditions of globalization. For this reason, **it is necessary to coordinate joint policies and services between different local entities in one same metropolitan area in order to achieve more efficient policies.** From this metropolitan point of view, it is important to prioritize services to citizens (with regards to health, education, social services, housing and the promotion of high quality occupation), as well as improving their mobility. Also, and since they are world economic centres, it is necessary to plan and develop infrastructures linking metropolises to the rest of the world.
9. **Insofar as possible, local governments should foresee social problems.** This means, on the one hand, that they should deal with the factors leading to situations or risks of exclusion from a structural point of view; and, on the other hand, they should base local action on a prior diagnosis of the needs. To do this, they should create tools to measure the impact of policies, such as social observatories. In addition to this, financial and political sustainability should be a fundamental criterion when designing inclusion policies, as well as providing ongoing training for all the players involved in these actions. Finally, these policies should be prepared with integral city programmes guided towards the inclusion of groups in social risk.

10. Given the different political competences at different government levels (local, metropolitan, regional, national and trans-national), **a multi-level approach is necessary in order to ensure that local inclusion policies fit in with supra-local policies.**
11. This is especially important since, generally, the local level does not have the essential inclusion mechanisms such as occupational, housing or urban mobility policies, among others. Therefore, **it is necessary to call for a greater involvement of state agents in those policies that are key to social inclusion, as well as a greater decentralisation of resources** in order for local governments to keep up these policies. The efficiency of these policies greatly depends on the level of decentralization of existing competences and resources.

#### **Inclusion policies as promoters of diversity**

12. **All social inclusion policies should lead to overcoming gender and ethnical inequalities**, as well as promoting a respectful co-existence, including all differences.
13. **Migration is a factor that explains global urbanism procedures.** It is estimated that half of the world population, 3,300 million people, live in urban environments. It is estimated that by 2030 this percentage will increase to 61%. Estimates also point out that 95% of this increase in urban population up to the year 2027 will be absorbed, mainly, by cities in the countries of origin of these migrations (migration from the countryside to the city).
14. The local level is the place for an effective management of the migratory reality. **For local governments, the challenge is how to plan their actions from a strategic, flexible and comprehensive point of view.** This planning should be constantly adaptable to new social demands and capable of innovating its actions to face the new and rich social and cultural diversity.
15. The perspective of inclusion implies promoting inter-cultural relations between culturally different communities. More specifically, **inter-cultural policies must be recognizable for their ability to both acknowledge differences and promote a cohabitation framework based on shared civic values.** This cohabitation agreement must be developed based on human rights and, particularly, on the right to the city.
16. **It is necessary to promote the role of territories – fundamentally cities, and their metropolitan areas- to act as proactive agents in international cooperation networks**, with regards to migrations. Public decentralized cooperation offers a great potential for cities issuing and receiving migrant people to work together, and it should aim at achieving human development under the conditions of globalization.

#### **Inclusion policies as promoters of democracy**

17. **The procedures of representative democracy are insufficient to fully incorporate citizens as a whole into the decision-making procedures** and to promote their critical ability. This is what participatory democracy procedures ensure: the right of citizens to permanently participate in the public arena, whether this is done in an organized way or individually. In this sense, participation should imply an act of co-responsibility, and for this it is essential to strengthen social networks and include the new players in public actions.
18. Also, to govern under conditions of social complexity means to do this from a perspective of governance. For this, **it is necessary to bring in administration changes that make it**

**possible to create a relational government that is able to apply a global and crosscutting action.** This means having a holistic approach to problems and to find answers to them through inter-dependant and network actions of all the different players: public administrations (from all the different levels of government), associations and community organizations, and the private sector.

19. Plurality, conflicts and diversity must be accepted as co-substantial issues to the procedures of social participation. Citizens' consensus very often is achieved from previous disagreements regarding how social challenges should be tackled, and this is why it is important to create permanent spaces for dialogue, debate and negotiation. As for the government, **citizen participation must be part of a crosscutting strategy intertwining the different municipal areas through participation plans.**
  20. **Citizen participation in inclusion policies** (during the stages of design, implementation and assessment) **is a pre-condition to expressly improve the quality of life of people** facing or risking exclusion, thus ascertaining their rights. Equally, participation contributes to improving the quality of public policies in terms of efficiency and effectiveness.
  21. **Participation channels must be designed following the temporal and spatial availability of people**, who must be able to combine participating on the public sphere with their private and working life. The public arena for political participation today is very diverse, since it materializes in the different spaces and times of every-day-life. This variety of participation channels for the civil society, its organizations and the association and community tissue, together with the capacity of local governments of building bridges with these players, constitute key issues to try out new spaces for political participation.
  22. Fighting against situations of exclusion is a global effort that is directly linked to local contexts. It is for this reason that it is essential for local governments to supportively commit to one another, together with their civil societies. **Public decentralized co-operation is an efficient tool to promote a municipallistic, cross-border solidarity.**
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Bearing all this in mind, the Social Inclusion and Participatory Democracy Commission adopts the following general commitments within the United Cities and Local Governments:

- **To contribute to the promotion of a critical reflection and political debate on poverty, inequalities and social exclusion.** To define specific proposals and actions leading to the creation of local social inclusion policies.
- **To share with local governments the most relevant social inclusion policies and a stronger democracy.** To facilitate exchanging experiences and knowledge among cities across the world.
- **To keep up political dialogue with social movements** and the cross-border networks of the World Social Forum through the Forum of Local Authorities.

## **LIST OF CITIES / ORGANISATIONS THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE POLICY PAPER**

### Committee Members

- Centro de Estudos Sociais, University of Coimbra (Portugal)
- Córdoba (Spain)
- Ecatepec (Mexico)
- FAMSÍ (Spain)
- Forum of Local Authorities
- Guarulhos (Brasil)
- Observatorio "Europa para todos"
- Terrassa (Spain)
- Villa El Salvador (Perú)

### Other UCLG Committees

- Committee on Peripheral Cities
- Committee on City Diplomacy
- Committee on Urban Mobility
- Committee on Urban Strategic Planning

### UCLG Members

- Junín (Argentina)

### Cities that participated in Barcelona's Seminar

- Cotacachi (Ecuador)
- Eldoret (Kenya)

## 6. PROPOSAL FOR THE CREATION OF AN OBSERVATORY FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION

### 1. Description and goal

As the development of one of the goals for the Work Plan 2008 – 2020 CISDP, the following guidelines are proposed for the creation of a virtual observatory for social inclusion, that will be located on the CSIPD website: [www.cities-localgovernments.org/CISDP](http://www.cities-localgovernments.org/CISDP). Essentially, this observatory will be made up of a database on innovative local social inclusion policies that, in the mid-term, will make it possible to create studies or analysis regarding this issue and, eventually, to design a handbook aimed at local governments offering guidelines for the planning and implementation of their social inclusion policies.

### 2. Content of the observatory

- Summary folders on local social inclusion policies throughout the world
- Complete documents on these policies (in the form of narrative accounts)
- A selection of useful bibliography and web sites
- Studies prepared from the gathered information

### 3. Possible studies derived from the observatory

- Crosscutting study – analysis of the selected policies and conclusions output
- The impact of innovative social inclusion policies in achieving the 2015 Millennium Goals
- Creating assessment indicators for social inclusion policies
- Creating human rights indicators
- The impact of social inclusion policies in the realization of ESCR (Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)
- The role of local governments in configuring and/or consolidating and/or implementing “emerging human rights”

### 4. Approximate timeline

September 2008 – December 2008	January 2009 – August 2009	September 2009 – January 2010	March 2010
Search for political and financial support for the creation of the observatory	Search and compilation of policies	Creation of a study from the gathered information	Presenting the observatory and the study at the 3rd UCLG World Congress (Santiago de Chile)
Choosing a research centre to carry out the search on policies	Dealing with the data: preparing files and narrative accounts	Preparing materials for the dissemination of the observatory and publishing of the study	

## 7. WORLD CHARTER-AGENDA ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CITY (DRAFT)

### Preamble

Whereas all human beings are endowed with the rights and freedoms recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the international instruments that build upon it, in particular, the International Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and on Civil and Political Rights (1966) and other basic human rights treaties,

Whereas all human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent, as indicated in the Vienna Declaration (1993), and reaffirmed in the Millennium Declaration (2000) and the Declaration for the 60th Anniversary of the United Nations (2005); and that therefore not only is the satisfaction of economic and social rights a precondition for the exercise of political rights, but at the same time only the exercise of political rights permits the participation in the decision-making mechanisms in the area of the redistribution of wealth that can lead to the achievement of economic and social rights,

Whereas the city is a basic political community in which all its inhabitants participate in a common project in search of freedom, equality in diversity, and development,

Convinced of the need to promote in our cities and territories a form of development that is sustainable, equitable, inclusive and respectful of human rights without discrimination; and of the need to act to extend democracy and local autonomy so as to contribute to building a world of peace and solidarity,

Whereas the mission of local institutions, through their actions and authority, is to apply this project and they must play a fundamental role in guaranteeing the effective exercise of the human rights of all their inhabitants,

Whereas citizenship, rights and responsibilities are expressed, first and foremost at the level of the city.

### GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### A. Objective

- The *Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City* aims to promote and consolidate the human rights of all the inhabitants of all cities.

#### B. Scope of Application

- All Charter-Agenda provisions apply to all city inhabitants without discrimination. For purposes of this Charter-Agenda, all inhabitants are citizens without distinction to gender, sexual orientation, ethnic or national origin, social condition, political or philosophical opinion, age or religion.
- A city inhabitant is any person that lives within its territory with an intention of permanence, even if without fixed domicile.
- A "city" is defined as a local government of any size: urban agglomerations, regions, and metropolises, municipalities.
- "City" obligations listed in this instrument should be understood as the duties of local authorities and administration, in accordance with the powers they may have constitutionally recognized.

#### C. Values and Principles

- The Charter-Agenda is based on the following values and principles:
- The dignity of every human being as a supreme value
- Freedom, equality, recognition of difference, social inclusion and justice

- Democracy and participation as the policy of cities
- The principle of the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of human rights
- The principle of cooperation and solidarity among all members of each city, as well as among all cities throughout the world
- The principle of social and environmental sustainability
- The principle of the shared and differentiated responsibility of the cities and their inhabitants, in accordance with abilities and means.

## **RIGHTS PROVIDED FOR AND AGENDA OF RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS**

### **I. THE RIGHT TO THE CITY**

1. All city inhabitants have the right to a city chartered as a local political community that ensures adequate living conditions for all persons, and provides good coexistence among all its inhabitants, and between them and the local authority.
2. The city offers all its inhabitants all available means to exercise their citizenship.
3. City inhabitants have the responsibility of mutual respect, and likewise that of respecting local employees and public property.

#### Suggested Action Plan

As a framework and summary of all rights provided for in this Charter-Agenda, the above right will be satisfied to the degree in which each and every one of the rights described therein are fully guaranteed. All things considered, the city must implement horizontal mechanisms of application, such as:

- a) Adoption and application of a human rights training program for local personnel including, if needed, the hiring of human rights specialists
- b) A participatory analysis or audit of human rights in the city, which would enable the undertaking of a status diagnosis.
- c) Periodic evaluation of the Charter in the framework of a public consultation
- d) A participatory local action plan in human rights matters, as a result of the previous analysis and evaluation.
- e) Creation of institutions, independent of the political authority, empowered to receive complaints and suggestions from the city's inhabitants and having inquiry and mediation functions.

### **II. RIGHTS OF PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY**

1. All city inhabitants have the right to participate in political and city management processes, in particular:
  - a) To participate in the decision-making processes of local public policies;
  - b) To question local authorities regarding their public policies, and to assess them;
  - c) To a transparent and accountable city.
2. The city promotes the participation of its inhabitants in local affairs, ensures them access to information, and recognizes their ability to impact local decisions. Particularly favours the participation of women and minority groups.

The city promotes the exercise of all its inhabitants' civil, political, collective and individual rights. To this end, it facilitates the participation of civil society, including human rights advocacy associations, in the definition of policies and the implementation of measures aimed at making the rights of its inhabitants effective.

3. City inhabitants participate in local affairs in step with their abilities and means. They take part in decisions of their concern, and respectfully express their opinions towards other individuals and groups. City inhabitants take on the local policy in terms of the common interest, for the benefit of the community.

Suggested Action Plan:

Short-term:

- a) Establish promotional measures for participation in electoral processes.
- b) Organize a representation of those city inhabitants who do not have the right to vote in local elections.
- c) Establish mechanisms to provide all city inhabitants with access to transparent and efficient public information. In particular, essential information should be published in the city's most common languages.
- d) Adoption of measures granting the freedom of movement and the ability to voice opposition when large public events are organized in the city.
- e) Annual publication of a clearly drafted summary of the city's budget and balance sheet.
- f) Establish a system of public premises for meetings of local entities, movements and associations
- g) Implement a local radio station

Mid-term:

- a) Establish a consultation process for the preparation of the budget.
- b) Establish a system of popular participation for the drafting of local projects, programmes and policies, including the city's master plan.
- c) Organize popular consultations open to all city inhabitants, when justified by the general interest issues presented.
- d) Adoption of a system to petition before the local authorities.
- e) Promote before the competent national and international authorities the legal recognition of the right of suffrage in local elections of all residents of the city, irrespective of their country of citizenship.

### **III. RIGHT TO PEACE AND SAFETY IN THE CITY**

1. All city inhabitants have the right to the safety of their person and property against any type of violence, including that potentially committed by law enforcement agencies.

2. The city ensures the security and physical and mental safety of all its inhabitants, and takes measures to combat acts of violence, regardless of who the perpetrators may be.

The city is equipped with efficient and democratic law enforcement agencies, prepared to protect all city inhabitants without discrimination.

Furthermore, the city adopts measures to combat school and domestic violence and, in particular, violence against the most vulnerable groups, such as women, minors, the elderly and the disabled.

The city assumes its role in the management of social conflicts, to prevent friction between the different groups that live in the city turning into actual conflict, and fosters coexistence and dialogue among them.

3. In fulfilling their responsibility, city inhabitants act in a manner compatible with the promotion of everyone's safety. They respect the principles of non-violence, as well as the local law enforcement agencies that act in accordance with this Charter-Agenda.

Suggested Action

Plan Short-term:

- a) Prepare studies, surveys and safety maps to appraise the status of the issue and its perception by the citizenry, as a foundation for the drafting of a public safety policy.
- b) Start up a participatory process for the different approaches on improving safety across the city's different communities and neighborhoods.

- c) Granting of government credit facilities and financial aid, and provision of business premises for the local network that works in the neighborhoods most sensitive to safety problems.
- d) Opening of a weapons collection service.
- e) Specialized training for local police forces, on awareness of and respect towards the different social and cultural realities of the city, for interventions in sensitive neighborhoods.
- f) Specialist human rights training for local police forces.

Mid-term:

- a) Engage the different departments in charge of urban planning, parks and gardens, public lighting, police and social services, to adopt all-encompassing measures to make public and semiprivate areas safer and more accessible.
- b) Engage the respective national justice systems in the analysis of crime patterns, for purposes of decriminalizing those categories of minor offenses, petty crimes and antisocial behavior that are easier to combat with non-punitive measures which attempt to rehabilitate and integrate the offenders.

#### IV. RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

1. All of the city's children, whatever their gender, have the right to living conditions that enable their physical, mental and ethical development and to enjoy all the rights recognized by the 1989 International Convention on the Rights of the Child. In accordance with this Convention, a child is any person under the age of 18.

2. The city ensures all its inhabitants under the age of 18 decent living conditions, in particular, the opportunity to receive normal schooling.

3. In fulfilling their responsibility, city inhabitants act respectfully towards the rights of children.

##### Suggested Action Plan

- a) Establish a network of daycare centers and childcare equipment at reasonable prices, with a balanced distribution throughout the city.
- b) Establish an alert network that enables the city to intervene in cases where persons under the age of 18 are at risk, particularly orphans, homeless children, child victims of sexual exploitation, HIV/Aids sufferers and those displaced by war.
- c) Opening of new reception centres for children, with healthcare, counselling and family relief services (including grandparents) where none exist, and strengthening of those existing.

#### V. RIGHT TO BASIC PUBLIC SERVICES

1. All city inhabitants have the right to a socially and economically inclusive city and, to this end, to access basic social services in acceptable technical and financial conditions.

2. The city creates, or promotes the creation of, quality and non-discriminatory public services that guarantee the following minimum items to all its inhabitants: training, health, housing, energy, water, and sufficient food, under the terms indicated in this Charter-Agenda.

The city takes the necessary measures to ensure a fair distribution of public services over its entire territory. Particularly, in countries with rapid urban growth, the cities must take urgent measures to improve the quality of life and opportunities of its inhabitants, especially those of less means as well as persons with disabilities.

3. City inhabitants use social services responsibly.

##### Suggested Action Plan

Short-term:

- a) Establishment of a social participation system in the monitoring of services rendering, especially with respect to quality, fee setting and front office operations. The participation system should give particular regard to the city's poorest neighborhoods, as well as to collectivities of persons with disabilities.

- b) Immediate abeyance, where existing, of the legal, administrative and procedural requirements that bind the provision of basic public services to the legal status of city inhabitants.
- c) Review of local procedures and regulatory provisions, to provide the low income persons with greater access to basic services.
- d) Careful observation of the needs of transients and other nomadic populations in the area of basic public services.

Mid-term:

- a) Establish efficient measures to make sure that private sector players who manage social or public interest services respect the rights guaranteed under this Charter- Agenda fully, and without discrimination. Contracts and concessions of the city shall clearly set forth its commitment to human rights.
- b) Adoption of measures to ensure that public services report to the level of government closest to the population, with the participation of city inhabitants in their management and supervision.

## VI. RIGHT TO EDUCATION, CULTURE AND DIVERSITY

1. All city inhabitants have the right to inclusive and ongoing quality training and education, and to enjoy culture in all its diverse expressions and forms.
2. The city stimulates creativity, supports the development and diversity of cultural practices, together with venues for the dissemination of culture and art, in particular, local public libraries.

In conjunction with other competent authorities, the city ensures the free and compulsory schooling of all children under the age of 16 living therein.

The city promotes training and ongoing education programs for adults.

In cooperation with cultural associations and the private sector, the local authorities promote the development of a cultural urban life.

The city ensures all its inhabitants access to communication services and tools. It promotes the learning of electronic and information technologies with free public workshops.

The city respects and protects the cultural diversity of its inhabitants, the only limit being their full respect towards the rules of coexistence and universally recognized human rights.

3. In fulfilling their responsibilities, city inhabitants act in a manner compatible with the commitments listed in matters of education, and respect the city's cultural diversity.

### Suggested Action Plan

- a) Adopt measures to ensure access to primary education for all school-age city inhabitants.
- b) Adopt support measures for adult education and ongoing training, including vocational training.
- c) Expansion of a public library network throughout all the city's neighborhoods.
- d) Adopt measures to conserve, protect and sustain the city's cultural heritage, and its sustainable and respectful access by tourists and city inhabitants
- e) Plan for the creation, expansion or maintenance of quality recreational areas open to the public without discrimination
- f) Adopt measures to ensure universal Internet access.
- g) Careful attention to the needs of transients and other nomad populations in the field of access to education.

## VII. RIGHT TO HOUSING AND ABODE

1. All city inhabitants have the right to:

- a) Decent and sanitary housing in a living area with features of urban centrality.
- b) Security of legal title over their home and plot of land
- c) Unconditionally take up abode

d) Migrants have the right to needs-adapted settlement areas.

2. Cities, especially those with rapid urban growth, reconcile their approaches on land use and housing development, to adapt them to the economic, social and cultural needs of the majority of the population, particularly the most vulnerable groups.

Cities take measures to improve the regulation of the local housing market, for purposes of ensuring affordable options for the most vulnerable groups.

Cities combat spatial exclusion and segregation with interventions based on social inclusion and diversity.

Furthermore, the city recognizes the right to take up abode of all its inhabitants, by promoting the guarantee of their title of occupancy, in particular for the most vulnerable groups, and especially, for the inhabitants of informal settlements.

In collaboration with other competent authorities, the city takes appropriate measures to offer a decent provisional abode to homeless populations, as well as an adequate site for migrant populations. It allows the administrative abode of homeless people at care associations, in order to ensure that they benefit from social services, particularly health services, in the city.

3. In fulfilling their responsibilities, city inhabitants use their regular home appropriately and promote neighborly relationships. Owners of multiple homes bear in mind that, together with other types of income, housing has a social and environmental function.

#### Suggested Action Plan

##### Short-term:

- a) Assess accommodation needs as a function of the city's population profile, and create or strengthen a local service to recognize them
- b) Assess the situation of informal settlements in the city, and dialogue with their players to secure their possessions and status, and improve their living conditions.
- c) Immediate stay of evictions that do not respect General Observation No. 7 of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, especially in informal settlements, and establishment of an alternative protection and accommodation system for evicted people.
- d) Expansion of public land by way of urban development, planning, and well-devised, area-based distribution in favor of the low-income persons.
- e) Opening of a local front office and readiness of local authorities to taken on board and work with migrant associations in the processes of negotiation and management of certain local policies and services.
- f) Careful attention to the housing needs of transients and other nomad populations.

##### Mid-term:

- a) Establish a procedure for land domain regularization that establishes timeframes and is non-discriminatory, especially with detriment to the most disfavored persons and groups. Involve the competent government in this procedure, where applicable. In the event of governmental delay or inaction, or risk of eviction, the inhabitants of informal settlements shall be entitled to legally demand the regularization of their housing.
- b) Adoption of a public or subsidized housing construction plan, affordable for low income persons, and a plan for the provision of decent shelters for the homeless.
- c) Enactment of the appropriate regulations to ensure full use of urban land, and of public and private property that is undeveloped, unused, underused or unoccupied, to fulfill the social function of property. Legislative action on a regional or national scale will be promoted when necessary.
- c) Adoption of a local regulation that ensures the accessibility of housing for the disabled, and establish an inspection plan in collaboration with affected groups.
- d) Adaptation of local regulations to provide for the enforceability of the right to housing.

## **VIII. RIGHT TO WATER, ENERGY AND FOOD**

1. All city inhabitants have the right to potable water, sanitation, electricity and/or gas and appropriate

food.

2. The city guarantees all its inhabitants equal access to energy, potable water, sanitation services, in adequate amounts and quality, regardless of their means or the geographical location of the user.

The city also guarantees all its inhabitants access to sufficient healthy and nutritional food, and that no person is deprived of food for lack of economic means. The city takes measures to mitigate and relieve hunger, even in cases of natural or other types of disasters.

The access mentioned in this section is to be understood from both a physical or material perspective (proximity) as well as economic (affordable price).

3. In fulfilling their responsibilities, city inhabitants consume water and energy in a manner that respects their conservation, and make appropriate use of facilities and equipment.

#### Suggested Action Plan

Short-term:

Adoption of a local ordinance, when competent to do so, that prohibits outages of water, gas, electricity and other energy sources for people in precarious situations with minimum consumption rates.

Mid-term:

- a) Establish a sliding-scale rate system which ensures that minimum consumptions of water and energy are practically free or very inexpensive, and which increases in step with consumption to penalize waste.
- b) Negotiate water and energy distribution terms with private operators, in the sense of guaranteeing the rights provided for under the Charter-Agenda.

### **IX. RIGHT TO THE ENVIRONMENT, TO PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AND TO SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

1. All city inhabitants have the right to harmonious urban development, with balance among all neighborhoods, and adequate provision of public transportation, and to an ecologically sustainable city.

2. The city ensures that urban development is undertaken with harmonious balance among all its neighborhoods, which prevents social segregation.

The city takes the necessary measures to achieve a healthy urban environment, and makes particular efforts to consistently improve air quality, and reduce inconveniences caused by noise and traffic.

The city is equipped with an efficient mass transit system that reaches all neighborhoods in a balanced manner.

3. In fulfilling their responsibility, city inhabitants act in a manner that respects the conservation of the environment and public installations, including public transportation. The inhabitants also participate in collective community efforts to promote harmonious urban planning and sustainable development, for the benefit of current and future generations.

#### Suggested Action Plan

Short-term:

- a) Adopt measures aimed at raising awareness among city inhabitants of their responsibility in the processes of climate change and biodiversity destruction, and at determining the ecological footprint of the city itself, to identify priority action areas.
- b) Adopt preventive measures to combat pollution and the disorganized occupation of land and environmentally

protected areas, including energy saving, waste management and reutilization, recycling, and expansion and conservation of green spaces.

- c) Adopt measures against corruption in urban development.
- d) Adopt measures to promote collective transportation services accessible to all the city's inhabitants.

Mid-term:

- a) Approval of an urban and inter-urban transit plan based on a public transportation system that is accessible, affordable and adequate for different environmental and social (gender, age and disability) needs.
- b) Installation of the necessary equipment in the transit and traffic system, and adaptation of all public or publicly-used buildings, work and recreational places to ensure access for the disabled.
- c) Review urban development plans to ensure that no neighborhood or community is excluded or abandoned, and that they all have elements of centrality. Planning shall be transparent and organized based on priorities, with greater efforts on the most disfavored neighborhoods.
- d) Metropolitan, and potentially regional and national, planning in terms of urban development, public transportation and environmental sustainability.

## FINAL PROVISIONS

### X. Adoption of the Global Charter-Agenda, and entry into force or acceptance at each city

- The Global Charter-Agenda shall be adopted in ... (*to be determined*) following a wide and global participatory process.

- The Charter-Agenda shall become effective in each city after it goes through a consultation process that allows the inhabitants of the city to discuss it and adapt it to local conditions and to the national legal framework, and upon its acceptance by a qualified majority of the city assembly. The same mechanism shall apply for any review of the local Charter-Agenda.

- The Local Charter-Agenda adopted in this way will have maximum regulatory status at local level.

### Y. Mechanisms of application:

- Cities establish an expert group or independent commission on human rights (where available, this role could be performed by the local ombudsman) to ensure local implementation of the Charter-Agenda. They may also determine a complaints or mediation procedure.

- Cities establish a consultation process to evaluate periodically the implementation and effects of the Charter-Agenda.

### Z. Role of the city in the promotion of human rights on an international scale

- Cities commit themselves to promote transnational local cooperation both in general, as well as for the implementation of this Charter-Agenda and to encourage respect for human rights worldwide.

- Cities endeavor to collaborate, within their powers, in the drafting of mandatory state reports of the UN system for human rights protection.

## 8. PROPOSAL FOR THE ARTICULATION BETWEEN THE COMMITTEE AND THE INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATORY ON PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

**Background information.** *The International Observatory for Participatory Democracy (IOPD) and the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion and Participatory Democracy have stressed their interest, on various occasions, to strengthen the articulation between these two networks. In this sense, various joint activities have been planned for the year 2008, including: (i) the participation of the CSIPD in the jury of the 3rd IOPD Award for “Good Practices in Citizen Participation”; (ii) the participation of the CSIPD in the round-table of the 8th IOPD Annual Conference (La Paz, 19-21 November) and in the previous meeting of the IOPD Assembly; (iii) the participation of the IOPD in the 2nd Biannual Commission Meeting (Istanbul, 29th November).*

With the wish to continue promoting synergies that enrich the work of both networks benefiting as many cities as possible, the following **actions** for 2009 are proposed:

- **ACTION PLAN TO IMPLEMENT CITIZEN PARTICIPATION POLICIES.** The Committee will invite those IOPD cities that are interested to participate in preparing a guide on how implement and consolidate citizen participation local policies. This document will define a political proposal on participation and will include a series of guidelines to be followed by cities to improve the democratic quality of their municipal governments.
  
- **INDICATORS TO MEASURE THE IMPACT OF PARTICIPATORY PROCEDURES.** Joint preparation of indicators to measure the impact and the quality of participatory procedures. In order to do this, a joint platform could be created between the CSIPD and the IOPD, including member cities of these two networks wishing to work on defining indicators. These indicators could measure, for example:
  - ✓ **the kind of participation involved in these procedures** (what population groups participate: the organised civil society, individuals, other social stakeholders?);
  - ✓ **the impact of these procedures in improving the living conditions of citizens, especially those of the most disfavoured groups** (does citizen participation foster social inclusion?, does it cause structural changes that contribute to transform social reality?);
  - ✓ **the potential of these procedures to strengthen the links among community members generate social cohesion** (does citizen participation promote networking?, does it foster the exchange of experiences?, does it favour mutual knowledge and a better communication?).
  
- **9TH IOPD ANNUAL CONFERENCE.** The 2nd Biannual Commission Meeting will be called in the framework of the 9th IOPD Annual Conference. A joint meeting between the CSIPD and the IOPD will be held (with the cities from both networks that are interested in promoting common synergies) to propose articulation actions to be developed in 2010. At the 9th IOPD Annual Conference there will be some round tables and debates where the indicators and local agenda will be presented. As for the Agenda, the CSIPD will send out an invitation to make contributions to the presented document aimed at these IOPD cities interested in this initiative.

## 9. PROPOSAL TO IMPROVE NETWORKING IN THE COMMISSION

**Starting point.** *Some difficulties have been noted regarding the networking from the Commission, such as the ability to keep in touch regularly with its member cities or that of working on the different thematic axes beyond the cities leading these axes. Ultimately, the need has arisen to improve the internal articulation of the Commission and its work capacity.*

For this reason, the following **actions** have been proposed:

**Goal 1.** To strengthen contacts between the Commission's members:

- Each member city shall appoint a contact to follow-up the Commission's work. This person will be in permanent contact with Technical Executive Secretariat and will be the link between the Commission and the relevant local governments.
- A forum will be made available on the Commission's web site: [www.cities-localgovernments.org/CISDP](http://www.cities-localgovernments.org/CISDP)

**Goal 2.** To promote the participation of cities in the Commission's work.

- The member cities agree to participate, insofar as possible, in the two annual Commission meetings. Should they be unable to do so, they shall make their contributions to the Commission's Technical Secretariat for aspects relating to the agenda and the meeting's work documents.
- Informal meetings will take place within the framework of those international activities where there are various members of the Commission present. These meetings will serve to revitalize the participation of cities in the Commission's work.

**Goal 3.** To increase the Commission's political leadership

- The Commission's Coordinating Committee will be put in place, as established in the work plan 2008-2010. This committee will be formed by:
  - ✓ The chair
  - ✓ Vice-chairs
  - ✓ Cities coordinating work groups
  - ✓ The Forum of Local Authorities (FLA)
  - ✓ Cities showing an interest in being part of this organization
  - ✓ The Technical Executive Secretariat
- Each local government on the Coordinating Committee shall appoint a contact person to follow-up the work of this structure
- The Coordinating Committee shall accompany the Technical Executive Committee during the development of its executive tasks and shall ensure the continuity of the Commission during the periods comprised between the two annual meetings.

## 10. LIST OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### AFRICA

Burkina Faso	Mairie de Ouagadougou
Burundi	Ville de Bujumbura
Mali	Mairie de Bamako
Morocco	Ville de Tetuan

### LATIN AMERICA

Argentina	Municipalidad de Rosario
Argentina	Municipalidad de Mendoza
Brazil	Frente Nacional de Prefeitos (FNP)
Brazil	Prefeitura Municipal de Belo Horizonte
Brazil	Prefeitura Municipal de Guarulhos
Brazil	Prefeitura Municipal de Rio de Janeiro
Brazil	Prefeitura Municipal de Santa Maria
Brazil	Prefeitura Municipal de Porto Alegre
Chile	Municipalidad de El Bosque
Chile	Municipalidad de La Pintana
Chile	Municipalidad de Puerto Montt
Colombia	Municipalidad de Bogotá
Colombia	Municipalidad de Medellín
Costa Rica	Municipalidad de Escazú
Ecuador	Municipio de Cuenca
Ecuador	Municipio de Quito
Mexico	Asociación de Municipios de México (AMMAC)
Mexico	Federación Nacional de Municipios de México (FENAMM)
Mexico	Municipio de Ecatepec de Morelos
Nicaragua	Alcaldía de Managua
Peru	Municipalidad de Villa El Salvador
Uruguay	Intendencia Municipal de Montevideo
Venezuela	Alcaldía del Distrito Metropolitano de Caracas

### ASIA

India	Kolkata Municipal Corporation
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### MIDDLE EAST-WEST ASIA

Palestina	Khan Younis
Turkey	Metropolitan Diyarbakir

## EUROPE

Belgium	Municipalité de Fontaine Lévêque
Belgium	Ville d' Anthesis
Belgium	Ville de Huy
France	Cités Unies France
France	Conseil Général Val de Marne
France	Conseil Général Seine Saint Denis
France	Conseil Régional Rhône-Alpes
France	Mairie de Nanterre
France	Mairie de Villeurbanne
France	Ville d'Arcueil
France	Ville d'Aubagne
France	Ville de Saint Denis
France	Ville de Taverny
Italy	Citta Unite (CICU)
Italy	Comune di Roma
Italy	Comune di Venezia
Italy	Provincia di Milano
Poland	Municipality of Lublin
Portugal	Camara Municipal de Palmela
Portugal	Camara Municipal de Gavião
Slovakia	Cités Unies Slovaquie
Spain	Ajuntament de Badalona
Spain	Ajuntament de Barcelona
Spain	Ajuntament de Terrassa
Spain	Ajuntament de Sta Coloma de Gramanet
Spain	Ajuntament de Sta Margarida de Montbui
Spain	Ajuntament de Viladecans
Spain	Ayuntamiento de Cordoba
Spain	Fondo Andaluz de Municipios para la Solidaridad International
Spain	Fons Català de Cooperació al Desenvolupament
Spain	Diputació de Barcelona
United Kingdom	Greater London Authority
United Kingdom	Local Government International Bureau (LGIB)

## PARTNERS

France	International Permanent Secretariat <i>Human Rights and Local Governments</i>
Mexico	Centro Operacional de Vivienda y Poblamiento (COPEVI)
Portugal	Centro de Estudos Sociais (CES), University of Coimbra