



Final Declaration

Gathered together in Mexico City from 20 to 22 April 2015, we, representatives of local governments from across the world, members of United Cities and Local Governments, of Mercociudades, of the Network Forum of Peripheral Local Authorities for Solidarity-based Metropolises, representatives of civil society and popular urban movements, part of the Global Platform for the Right to the City, in the presence of more than four thousand five hundred inhabitants of Mexico City, affirm our commitment to the Right to the City.

In 2050, seventy per cent of the world's population will live in urban areas. This means that within the next thirty years, more than two billion people will move to cities, especially to the largest metropolises in the world. In an age where one per cent of the population holds more than half of the global wealth, urban areas will see tensions and inequalities that are unsustainable.

In this context, local governments and their people are urgently claiming for the Right to the City as a necessary step to build a fair, inclusive, democratic and sustainable urban world.

In line with the first World Summit of Local Governments for the Right to the City of Saint-Denis in 2012, and inspired by the Mexico City Charter for the Right to the City (The European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City (Saint Denis, 2000), Montreal Charter (2006), Vienna Charter (2012), Gwangju Guiding Principles for Human Rights Cities (2012) and the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City adopted by UCLG in 2011, local governments and their citizens, from all walks of life, reaffirm their essential role as actors for the guarantee of civil, political, social, economic, cultural and environmental rights.

The Right to the City is an individual and collective right for all inhabitants, in which territories of the cities and their hinterlands are considered as spaces for the exercise and fulfillment of rights in order to ensure that people have access to the resources, services, goods and opportunities that the city brings in a fair, universal, democratic and sustainable way.

In this way, the Right to the City means:

- Cities where the full exercise of human rights is guaranteed for all inhabitants
- Democratic, transparent, and participatory cities based on citizens' empowerment
- Cities as common goods for all inhabitants, where human rights take precedence over the process of privatization, of speculation which inevitably lead to the exclusion of the majority of the population, and where the rehabilitation of historic centers do not result in their gentrification
- Sustainable cities which maintain a balanced and respectful relationship with the surrounding rural area and its natural resources
- Cities whose economies aim to ensure their inhabitants' well-being, and rely on endogenous and sustainable local economic developments and resources without seeking to attract international investments first
- Multicultural and welcoming cities highlighting the wealth of migrants



Ciudad de México. 20, 21 y 22 de abril 2015



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UCLG Committee
on Social Inclusion,
Participatory Democracy
and Human Rights



UCLG
United Cities
and Local Governments

- Cities where public space is accessible to all and recognized as necessary for the freedom of expression, and the various uses of the city
- Cities where cultural rights are guaranteed as key for social inclusion

In large metropolises, these principles should be applied through the building of polycentric cities, built with peripheries and not with a centralist focus.

We are convinced that local governments are working on a daily basis, through their public policies and with the participation of their inhabitants, towards “contributing to building inclusive, livable, fair, democratic, sustainable and enjoyable cities; to launching social organization processes, strengthening social cohesion and building active and responsible citizenship; contributing to build fair, inclusive and solidarity-based urban economies capable of guaranteeing productive inclusion and enhancing popular economic sectors.”
(Mexico City Charter for the Right to the City).

We want cities for all, based on social and spacial justice, without visible or invisible boundaries, and where collective wellbeing is guaranteed.

In 18 months, states of the whole world will meet at the UN-Habitat Summit on Housing and Sustainable Development (Quito, October 2016) to define a New Global Urban Agenda. We want the Right to the City to be recognized in this agenda as an alternative to the overwhelming urban narrative based on the rise of large metropolises in competition. Goals, measures, indicators, and tools for the implementation of the Right to the City at the global, regional and local levels are needed to be included in the future Habitat Agenda.

Furthermore, we ask UN-Habitat to guarantee an effective participation of local governments and their associations in collaboration with civil society in the preparation, organization, and the realization of the Habitat III Summit. We call for a joint effort of States, Local Governments, Academic Sectors and popular and citizens’ urban movement to fulfill the objectives of this declaration.

Finally, we call for a strong common action by cities and the members of UCLG that share the commitment for the Right to the City in order to advance this discussion and recognition of the Right to the City within the context of UCLG, through our common tool: the Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights.

Mexico City, 22 April 2015