The Committee contributes to articulate of a common voice for cities in UCLG on social inclusion, participatory democracy and human rights, and to advise local governments on the design of these policies.

To this end, the Committee fosters political debate, exchanges experiences and encourages the collective generation of new knowledges in order to establish guidelines to design and implement innovative local policies on social inclusion, participatory democracy and human rights.

In 2017, the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights will continue the promotion of the right to the city and human rights in the city, based on concrete local policies implemented by its members and on a strong partnership with civil society, researchers and UN-system organizations (Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, International Labour Organization, UNESCO…). In addition to this, the CSIPDHR will work on new fields of the right to the city, such as informal work, social housing, the fight against homelessness, and corporate social responsibility and the fight against tax havens.

1. Political Advocacy, Institutional Relations and Representation

Articulation with civil society organizations and participation in the Global Platform for the Right to the City, aiming at promoting the implementation of the Right to the City, as mentioned in the Habitat III Agenda.

The Committee, through its members or its executive secretariat, will maintain its engagement within the Platform to build and strengthen alliances with civil society and social movements. The CSIPDHR takes part in the advocacy and communications working groups.

Representation within the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments

The Committee will contribute to the elaboration of the inclusive cities and the right to the city’s content within the Global Taskforce (GTF). The GTF is a coordination platform gathering the main local governments’ networks, with the facilitation of UCLG, in order to develop advocacy common actions for international policy processes. In this regard, the CSIPDHR will contribute to the proposals developed with its members’ participation, and will adopt political statements aiming at advancing the Right to the City in territories.
Political promotion of the World Charter-Agenda of Human Rights in the City, the European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City and the document For a World of Inclusive Cities.

The Committee will continue its promotion work in order for Local Governments to adopt these Charters, through its participation in international meetings and its communication tools. Such a work will be carried out in partnership with civil society organizations.

Cooperation with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

The CSIPDHR will extend the work started back in 2015 with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen the protection, promotion and guarantee of Human Rights at the local level. It will involve the organization of a training pilot session on international mechanisms of human rights protection oriented to the Barcelona human rights advocacy network, as well as the creation of a global network for the right to housing and the homeless people’s rights.

Organization of campaign of local elected officials to promote the fight against tax havens, in partnership with OXFAM-Intermón.

2. Strengthening the network, leadership and governance

Opening up the Committee to Mediterranean and Sub-Saharan cities, through the Mediterranean City-to-City Migration Project and the cooperation with ENDA-ECOPOP to promote the World Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City in Africa.

Strengthening relationships with new members: Madrid, Delhi and Indonesian cities – through the cooperation with the International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID).

Organization of a coordination annual meeting to define the Committee’s strategy, on the occasion of the UCLG World Council and an international seminar on the Right to the City.

Contribution the UCLG global strategy, by participating in its definition and the implementation of the strategic axis identified in the UCLG Annual Retreat (Barcelona, February 2017).

Broadening the network by involving new cities through the participation in new networks (ICCAR – UNESCO Network of Cities for Inclusiveness and Sustainability, Eurocities…), through synergies with UCLG section, and by working for gender equality and an equitable territorial representation in the Committee’s collegiate Co-Presidency.

3. Production and dissemination of knowledge
Implementation of the Human Rights Monitoring Program based on the World Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City in new territories, and dissemination of the results of the pilot project implemented in Bogota in 2015, in order to widen the program and include new territories.

Dissemination of the research project developed on the “Peripheral Cities and Inclusive Metropolitan areas” by the Research Lab La Vue (University Paris VIII), as part of the GOLD report, through the organization of a cycle of conferences under the theme “Solidary versus competitive metropolitan areas”.

Involvement in the Mediterranean City-to-City Migration (MC2CM) project. This program aims at strengthening the inclusion of migrants at the local level, notably through the access to human rights, in six South-Mediterranean and South-European cities: Tangier, Tunis, Beirut, Amman, Lisbon, Lyon, Turin, Vienna and Madrid. This work is coordinated by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), in partnership with the UCLG World Secretariat. In this context, the Committee will work on accompanying pilot projects on the inclusion of migrants in participating cities.

Dissemination of the Peer Review guide on local policies for social cohesion and intercultural and interreligious drafted as part of the MC2CM project.

Dissemination of the guide on local practices of social inclusion, produced in the framework of the UNESCO Network of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities - ICCAR.

Participation in the Jury of the 2017 IOPD Award “Best Practice in Citizen Participation” – the winner to be announced in the IOPD 17th Conference in Montreal (June 2017).

Dissemination of the Committee members’ experiences on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights, as well as the CSIPDHR work in these fields, through the following tools:

- Improvement of the Committee website’s structure and contents (www.uclg-cisdp.org).
- Intensive use of social networks (Facebook and Twitter) to disseminate the Committee’s work and reach the general public.
- Dissemination of news about the CSIPDHR members and partners’ activities in the three working languages of the Committee (English, Spanish and French) through its newsletters.
- Compilation of experiences and policies on social inclusion, participatory democracy and human rights at local level, and dissemination of case studies through the Inclusive Cities Observatory (CSIPDHR website).

4. Cooperation and learning

The international meetings of Local Governments for the Right to the City are privileged spaces for the exchange of public policies to implement the Right to the City and for dialoguing with civil society and researchers to innovate in terms of social inclusion and
citizens’ participation. In 2017, the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights will co-organize the following meetings:

The 7th World Human Rights Cities Forum in Gwangju (South Korea), on September 14-17.

An international seminar on the Olympic Games and social inclusion, in partnership with the Departmental Council of Seine-Saint-Denis and Plaine Commune, in September.

An international meeting on the Right to the City, in Delhi, in partnership with the government of Delhi (India) – to be confirmed.

Additionally, the CSIPDHR will coordinate two learning seminars to share experiences and knowledges:

A seminar on the human rights-based approach to local public action, in partnership with the city of Barcelona (dates to be confirmed). Barcelona will draft a guide on this issue.

A seminar on social housing’s funding, in partnership with the Committee on Social Finances for Development and the OECD, in March.

The Committee will also coordinate:

The organization of a roundtable on Social Inclusion and Participatory Democracy in metropolitan areas on the occasion of the International Observatory for Participatory Democracy (IOPD) Conference and the annual conference of Metropolis, which will be held in Montreal, in June.

The organization of a roundtable under the theme of “Human Rights Culture” as part of the UCLG Culture Summit, which will take place in Jeju (South Korea) on May 10-13, in close collaboration with the Committee’s co-presidency of Gwangju.

Finally, some other collaborative working projects have been proposed and will be concreted during the year:

The development of a guide on Local Governments’ role regarding informal workers, in partnership with WIEGO, the ILO and the city of Bogota.

The launch of working groups on youth, food sovereignty and diversities.

2017 will allow the Committee to explore new modalities of work combining the reinforcement of local capabilities while advocating at local level –such as exchange modalities like job shadowing internships or intern’s exchange programmes between local administrations.
To this end, the Committee will rely on the economic contributions of its members, as well as on a support from the UCLG World Secretariat.