Annual Report 2023
Introduction: the year in a glance

2023 was an important year to consolidate the first results of the UCLG-CSIPDHR Global Campaign “10, 100, 1000 Human Rights Cities and Territories by 2030,” notably to strengthen ownership and the participation in the activities of the Committee of more than 120 Cities which participated in the Campaign in 2022. Moreover, a second wave of the Campaign was also launched to expand its outreach, especially in light of the UN celebration of the 75 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

2023 was also marked by the kick off of the first phase of the update process of the UCLG Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City, which consisted in the establishment of a Steering Board of Local and Regional Governments (LRGs) and experts to exchange on a new structure of the document and of the rights included in it; as well as in presenting the process to the members of the Global Campaign to involve them in this collective endeavor. This first phase culminated in the proposal of a new structure of rights for the updated document, which will be further discussed in the future.

In 2023, a series of thematic areas also gained more importance in the context of the activities of the Committee: antiracism - thanks to the leadership of the City of Barcelona - violence against women, in light of the ongoing programme “Towards Caring Territories for Women Victims of Violence” with the Department of Seine-Saint-Denis; poverty and inequalities in the framework of the World Human Right Cities Forum co-organized with the Metropolitan City of Gwangju, but also housing, LGBTQI+ rights and peace, following cities’ and international priorities emerged in the current global context.

Fostering the global Human Rights Cities movement: main activities

Given the great success of the first wave of the Global Campaign “10, 100,1000 Human Rights Cities and Territories by 2030”, the Executive Secretariat of the Committee worked with the members of the Global Campaign in order to:

- Implement or extend support for local activities on Human Rights (upon specific request of Local Governments);
- Foster international networking and/or advocacy on specific themes (upon the initiative of one - or more - Local Government);
- Contribute to the UCLG-CSIPDHR action plan on Human Rights, notably through the update process of the UCLG Charter-Agenda on HR in the City or through the implementation of the cooperation agreement with the OHCHR.

By articulating different local initiatives, the campaign has made visible the impact of Human Rights
cities through international cooperation. The momentum created by this first step has pushed us to go even further, and multiply our forces to bring together more cities and territories committed to build a more sustainable future.

For example, Ciudad Juárez worked with the Committee to apply the Human-Rights based approach to draft a local “Charter for the Right to the City” to foster citizens’ participation and access to services. The Region of Valparaíso and the City of Grigny promoted international advocacy and exchange on local action on Right to Water; while Quilmes and Padua are promoting joint efforts of Local Governments at international level to better link democracy with peace and memory.

The commitment of the Cities participating in the Campaign represented an important input to launch the second wave of the Campaign, inviting all local and regional governments, regardless of their size or geographical location, to join the global campaign to share initiatives to protect Human Rights; as well as to work in collaboration with other cities and territories to exchange best practices and foster capacity-building in Human Rights.

Important events linked to the Campaign

The Campaign allowed LRGs to participate in events of international advocacy organized by the CSIPDHR and UCLG to present the Campaign and scale-up the impact of local actions, such as the UCLG Annual Retreat in Barcelona in February 2023; the Gwangju WHRCF in October; the OIDP Annual Conference in Rio de Janeiro in November and the Human Rights Conference in Vienna in December.

Among these events, the 13th edition of the World Human Rights Cities Forum (WHRCF) on “Urban Poverty and Inequalities,” co-organised by the UCLG-CSIPDHR Executive Secretariat and its Co-Presidency of the City of Gwangju, was extremely relevant to better understand key concepts related to poverty and inequalities at local level and to foster commitment to local initiatives on HR, as exemplified by the powerful final Declaration adopted during the Forum. The Plenary Session of the Forum - organized by the CSIPDHR - was attended by partners from OHCHR; RWI; The World Bank; members academia and local representative from Indonesia, Kisumu County; São Paulo; San Antonio de Chile; Montreal; Marseille; and Gwangju. The session highlighted the key role of local governments to fulfill the economic and social rights; the importance of further coordination and alignment between different levels of government; as well as the importance of transparency and accountability mechanisms at local level.

Moreover, participants emphasized the importance to promote the HR as a policy guardrail at the local level, for example, by integrating them into local budgeting schemes to address the limits of local autonomy in fiscal matters and corruption in the management of resources.

Find more information about the good practices presented by LRGs and the outcomes of the Gwangju WHRCF by accessing the online report here.

Similarly, the special session on LRGs and Human Rights of III World Human Rights Forum of Buenos Aires - moderated by Ms. Amanda Fléty, Coordinator of the UCLG-CSIPDHR and attended by high-level Representatives from Argentina and Latin-America (Representatives from the Cities of
Ushuaia; Gualeguaychú, Entre Ríos; El Hoyo, Chubut; Valle Viejo; as well as Quito and Valparaíso) - contributed to foster the outreach of the campaign and political engagement towards Human Rights in the Latin American region. This engagement was further strengthened by the Call for respect on Human Rights proposed in the UCLG Executive Bureau in Brussels in June 2023 by Ms. Carolina Cosse, former President of UCLG; but also by the membership of Montevideo to the Global Campaign in November 2023; and by the commitment on Human Rights of the City of Bogotá (also member of the Global Campaign), through the organization of the 4th World Forum Cities and Territories of Peace.

Last but not least, the City of Vienna has leveraged its long-standing tradition as a Human Rights City to promote its “Human Rights Year” initiative to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Vienna World Conference of Human Rights and amplify the voices of Human Rights Cities, including by promoting the Global Campaign. The initiative was key to exchange on how to break silos and create a common language to talk about social inclusion, and cross-cutting approaches to local action with the Cities of Graz, Utrecht, Mechelen, and Cologne. In this framework, Ms. Karolina Zdrodowska, Mayor of Warsaw, expressed the willingness to strengthen international cooperation among LRGs to put into practice a Human Rights-based approach in all services of the municipality to fight inequalities and discrimination.

The update process of UCLG Global-Charter Agenda on Human Rights in the City

On 18 May 2023, the UCLG-CSIPDHR kicked off the first phase of the updating of the Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City. The Charter-Agenda is the first document to propose an international framework for the understanding and implementation of Human Rights from the perspective of Local and Regional governments. More than 10 years after its adoption, due to the deep global transformations and growing inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights kicked off a participatory process to update the narrative, vision and content this milestone document.

The update process of the Global Charter-Agenda aimed at reflecting the achievements and progresses made by Local Governments in the past 10 years for the promotion of Human Rights; as well as at expanding the global-local vision on Human Rights of the current Charter-Agenda. Moreover, the process will feed the entire UCLG agenda, including for the implementation of its Pact for the Future of Humanity, adopted in the last UCLG World Congress in October 2022.

This first phase of the update aims to renew the narrative and vision of this document by revising the structure of the 12 existing rights, with a view to better reflecting the action of local and regional governments and to identify the rights that are not included in the current version.

The outcome of this phase will be presented to political representatives of the co-presidency of the UCLG-CSIPDHR for validation, and will represent a first common framework to elaborate the new text of the document.

The CSIPDHR and a Steering Board, consisting of expert partners and local and regional government officials who are co-presidents or active members of the CSIPDHR, have led this initial phase. The following Cities and experts are members of the Steering Board: the cities of
San Antonio and Valparaiso (Chile), Quilmes (Argentina), Iztapalapa (Mexico City), Vienna (Austria), Utrecht (Netherlands), Gwangju (South Korea), Maui (Hawaii), Seine-Saint-Denis, Grigny (France). Also participating are the Human Rights Observatory of Chile, the Habitat International Coalition, the Global Platform for the Right to the City, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, the Human Rights Resource Centre and another HR expert of Barcelona (Spain), the General Directorate for Sexual Diversity and Human Rights of Mexico City (Mexico), an expert of the Association of Polish Cities, as well as a representative of the Asian Democracy Network and a former representative of the City of Montreal (Canada). The Steering Board gathered four times in 2023 and concluded the year by the proposal of a new structure of rights.

The first phase was presented by Ms. Linda Voortman, Co-Mayor of Utrecht and Co-President of the UCLG-CSIPDHR in an online meeting on 12 September, to more than 40 political representatives of the members of the Campaign; as well as to the political representatives of the Co-presidency of the UCLG-CSIPDHR. The objective of the meeting was to bridge the update of the Charter-Agenda with the Global Campaign and foster the involvement of Cities in the update process.

Another important moment to reflect on the Charter Agenda was during a special hybrid workshop on the update process in the Gwangju Forum, which contributed to include new rights or expand the existing ones.

Read more information on the new structure to come on our website and newsletter!

The UN75 and cooperation agreement with the OHCHR

The Campaign and the Global-Charter Agenda also helped to reflect on the future of the “Human Rights Cities” movement and work for positive change at local, regional and international levels, including in the framework of partners’ initiatives, especially the OHCHR. For example, the Committee participated in an event organized in Lund by the Raoul Wallenberg in Institute (RWI) in January 2023 with the OHCHR and other member Cities of the Committee and partners to discuss a long-term action plan for Human Rights at local level. In August 2023, in the framework of the cooperation agreement with the OHCHR, the UCLG - CSIPDHR and the UCLG Secretary General, Ms. Emilia Saiz, participated in an high-level expert meeting on enhancing capacity-building for local governments, highlighting the importance of initiatives such as the Global Campaign to support solidarity among LRGs to identify priorities in the delivery of public services.

Furthermore, in 2023 the cooperation with the OHCHR mostly focused on the UN 75 initiative. Indeed, at the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) invited all LRGs around the world to commemorate this special year through the Human Rights 75 Initiative. In this context, the CSIPDHR invited LRGs to take an active part in the Human Rights 75 thematic spotlights, showcasing the commitment of LRG to the Universal Declaration. In order to do that, a social media toolkit to expand outreach and communication on LRGs action in this commemoration was prepared; as well as a short document with key information on the Universal Declaration and on the role of LRGs.
Several LRGs from all over the world joined the initiatives and seized the opportunity to link this commemoration to other local initiatives. For example, the City of Barcelona presented the "Pacto de ciudad por la salvaguarda de los Derechos Humanos en la ciudad", a collective project to guide local public policies.

In the framework of the partnership with the OHCHR, a letter was co-signed by Mr. Volker Türk, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Ms. Emilia Saiz, Secretary General of UCLG and sent to all UCLG members to foster solidarity activities to join the commemoration.

This process culminated in the celebration of 10 December, the International Human Rights Day in Geneva, where Ms. Emilia Saiz participated in a panel with Ms. Nada Nashif, UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, highlighting the transformative role of partnerships to implement Human Rights at the local level through local service provision; to fight misinformation; to ensure digital rights and access for all; as well as to restore trust in institutions.

Key themes of the year

Violence Against Women

This topic continues to be at the core of UCLG-CSIPDHR activities thanks to the ongoing international programme led by the Committee and its Co-Presidency of the Department of Seine Saint-Denis “Towards Caring Territories for Women Victims of Violence” (2021-2024). In this sense, 2023 started with the publication of the biannual newsletter for the 8 March - International Women’s Day - which included an interview to Ms. Javiera Toledo, Mayor of Villa Alemana; the report of the training held in Iztapalapa in December 2022; as well as of the publication of the powerful video on violence against women released by UCLG and the Committee in Iztapalapa during the training.

The legacy of Iztapalapa training and its declaration inspired several other local initiatives, such as inauguration of Costa Rica’s first Safe Route against violence against women in Nicoya, based on the local initiative of “Caminos Mujeres Libres y Seguras” in Iztapalapa; as well as to other relevant international declarations such as the UCLG declaration presented in the framework of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67), which explicitly mentioned the importance of LRGs’ commitment to combating gender-based violence.

In May 2023, the UCLG - CSIPDHR and the Observatory on Violence against Women of the Department of Seine-Saint Denis organized a webinar on "Local and Regional Governments against sexual violence" to understand the reality of sexual violence at local level; the different forms that it takes; and the consequences for the victims and for social cohesion. The webinar was particularly successful as it was attended by both LRGs’ representatives and CSO of Africa and Latin America, laying the ground for constructive dialogue on sensitive topics across regions and between different actors.

In 2023, the topic of violence against women intersected with another important working area of UCLG and the Committee, which is peace. Thanks to the leadership of Bogotá and to the active role of the Committee as member of the COI, the 4th edition of the World Forum Cities
and Territories of Peace took place from 26 to 28 June 2023 in Bogotá, with violence against women at the center. In particular, the CSIPDHR organized a consultation with the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women in the framework of the Co-Learning Lab “Towards Feminist Municipalism: institutionalising women's rights and eradicating gender-based violence.” Eleven women leaders from local governments in Latin America and Europe participated in the event. The consultation contributed to highlight some key policy priorities at local level for the future and to establish a more structured dialogue with the UN Special Rapporteur, which had initiated during the UCLG World Congress in Daejeon in 2022.

The Committee also participated in the annual event “Femmes du Monde en Seine-Saint-Denis”, held in Seine-Saint-Denis on the theme: “Femicides: not one more,” with the participation of the Island of Ngazidja; as well as Yadira Cortes, an activist from Red Mesa Mujeres de Ciudad Juarez (Mexico), who had also participated in the international training in Iztapalapa. The year concluded with the publication of the second biannual newsletter on 25 November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, which included a series local practices against gender-based violence; as well as an interview to Ms. Maysoun Dawoud, Head of the Jenin Observatory on Violence against Women. Against the tragic backdrop of the war between Israel and Hamas, Mayson explained the impact of the ongoing conflict on the lives of women and girls in Jenin.

Lastly, 2023 was also particularly relevant for the co-organization of a second international training on violence against women, hosted in Banjul by Hon. Rohey Malick Lowe in January 2024. During three days, participants and experts explored together key thematic areas which encompassed: Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Forced Marriage; Sexual violence against girls and in situations of armed conflict; and Advocacy for women's rights. The training brought together approximately 30 participants from 12 African countries and concluded with the adoption of the “Banjul Declaration” which captures the commitment of local and regional women leaders to end violence against women, as well as calling on all levels of government to scale up and take action.

Racism represents a challenge for equality and democracy at all levels of governments, including at the local level. Several Cities and Territories around the world are already acting in this regard. For example, in recent years, in Barcelona, the fight against racism has become a key priority to advance the right to equal treatment and non-discrimination. In 2022, the City of Barcelona has launched a specific government measure against racism “Por una Barcelona antirracista” (2022-2025) deploying new actions and tools and opening the possibility to assess and sanction situations of racism in different areas of action of the City Council; as well and to link the issue of anti-racism with local public policies from a Human Rights perspective.

Against this background, in 2023, the Department of Diversity and Citizenship’s Rights of Barcelona – in charge of monitoring the implementation of antiracism initiatives -requested the support of the UCLG-CSIPDHR in the dissemination and internationalization of the government’s measure. This would also represent an occasion to foster collective reflection and networking on the role of local governments in the anti-racist struggle, building on the long-lasting history of the UCLG-CSIPDHR to bring together LRGs committed to the advancement of Human Rights to join their efforts.
In particular, the success of the UCLG-CSIPDHR Global Campaign represented an important opportunity to identify other Territories committed to anti-racism; as well as to strengthen decentralized cooperation with other LRGs around the world on specific issues that are linked to local action on non-discrimination, anti-racism and Human Rights. The Global Campaign and the leadership of Barcelona gave impulse to a series of international exchanges between Barcelona and other Cities around policies, mechanisms, and approaches to promote antiracism at local level and in diverse social and political contexts.

Throughout 2023, a series of exchanges conducted between the City of Barcelona and other Cities (i.e. San Antonio in Texas; Rio de Janeiro and Salvador in Brazil and Malmo in Sweden) were conducted, including in the framework of a special session on “What makes a city antiracist? Proposing an agenda for local action” organized by the City Rio the Janeiro during the 2023 OIDP Conference, to support the launch of the Network of Antiracist Cities (resulted form the Pact to Combat Racism and Promote Ethnic and Racial Equality, signed on 20 June 2022 by 21 Brazilian cities).

The outcomes of these exchanges contributed to highlight concrete examples of priorities, practices and initiatives adopted by Local Governments in different realities around the world to promote equality and non-discrimination through antiracism; as well as to identify further avenues for reflection for the upcoming years - to be explored with the support of both Barcelona and Rio de Janeiro - in order to:

- Scale-up the existing and effective work of regional networks;
- Involve other social sectors, such as academia, to develop common and international indicators;
- Promote more international working spaces for the implementation of public policies at the local level;
- Foster capacity building activities;
- Strengthen the linkages between local action on antiracism with Human Rights.

### LGBTQI+ rights

At a time when several countries are regressing in recognizing and respecting LGBTQI+ rights, particularly in Uganda, where a recent law advocates the death penalty for same-sex relationships, several cities part of the "10,100,1000 Human Rights Cities and Territories by 2030" campaign have express their commitment to act in favor of LGBTQI+ inhabitants. This commitment by Local and Regional Governments is not new, and has solidified over the last decade, becoming tangible experience and know-how at the local level. This encompasses aspects such as access to public services, the development of new public policies, collaboration with civil society and LGBTQI+ associations, and advocacy actions against LGBTQIphobia.

Therefore, the City of Grenoble, together with Cologne, Mexico City, San Antonio de Chile, and Red Diversa (Chile), launched a collective reflection on this topic, which translated in a series of bilateralmeetings; and an online general meeting in December 2023. The meeting aimed at sharing perspectives on local action to promote and protect the rights of LGBTQI+ people; as well as at identifying levers for joint action at the international level, to be further discussed in the future.
During the meeting, the participants proposed establishing minimum standards for LGBTQI+ protection and analyzing pioneering activities. LRGs also highlighted the UCLG Charter-Agenda for Human Rights, emphasizing the need to highlight freedom and gender and sexual diversities and the need to emphasize extraterritorial responsibilities of progressive municipalities and the need for systematic pressure to enforce existing laws.

**Housing**

Right to housing still represents a key area of work for the UCLG-CSIPDHR. 2023 was particularly relevant in this sense, as the Committee participated in the Cities Summit of the Americas (24-30 April, Denver), a unique initiative organized by the U.S. Government to strengthen subnational cooperation in the continent.

In this framework, the Latin American Federation of Cities, Municipalities, and Associations (FLACMA), UCLG and the CSIPDHR seized the occasion to open a regional dialogue in the field for the first time, thanks to the session "Cities for Adequate Housing: Joining Forces Towards Local Housing Systems that Care for All.” Following this open regional dialogue at the Cities Summit, the UCLG Housing Community of Practice will continue to work with further milestones on the horizon.

Another important event on the right to housing was the International Social Housing festival, organized by the City of Barcelona in June 2023. The 4th edition of the ISHF had more than 2,100 participants from all over the world and represented a unique opportunity for discussion between social and affordable housing providers, policymakers, researchers, LRGs, urbanists, architects and activists.

In this context, the UCLG-CSIPDHR, CIDEU, the Global Platform for the Right to the City, Habitat International Coalition, the International Institute for Environment and Development, Observatory DESC, UCL’s Bartlett Development Planning Unit co-organized a workshop on “Housing policies from below: local co-production strategies for housing justice.” The workshop explored mechanisms through which local governments and civil society groups from different regions are re-imagining and expanding housing policies from below, to drive housing justice at the local level.

Lastly, the Committee organized an important consultation with the UN Special Rapporteur on Housing, Mr. Balakrishnan Rajagopal and the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty, Mr. Olivier De Schutter. This consultation served as the contribution of the organized constituency of local and regional governments to the report on “Decriminalization of homelessness and extreme poverty” of the Human Rights Council. In the consultation, LRGs helped to feed into this expansion of the notion of homelessness. For example, they urged to trace the historical patterns that cause homelessness, such as the territorialisation of discriminatory and unequal development models and/or financialisation of housing, depending on each context. They also shed light on the emotional impact of homelessness; and drew attention to housing as a fundamental issue for people's general wellbeing. Read more about the outcomes of the consultation here; and access the full contribution of LRGs for the UN report here.
There several other thematic focuses linked to the mandate of the Committee which marked 2023. Among them, **human mobility and migration represent an important axis for joint action at local level**. More specifically, in 2023, the Committee helped the dissemination of the [Call for Local Action on Refugees](#), to collect and showcase bold, people-centered local actions to facilitate cross-fertilization, peer learning and replication on this topic.

The activities of the Committee in the field of human mobility included the participation in the Peer Learning on **“Tackling Discrimination, Fostering Participation”**, organized by UCLG as part of the Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees by Mayors Mechanism (MM), co-steered by UCLG, the Mayors Migration Council (MMC) and the International Organization on Migration (IOM), in partnership with UNHCR, to highlight the importance of exploring the intersections between racism and migration, for newcomers. An important support was also given to Committee’s active members such as Utrecht and the Department of Seine-Saint-Denis for the design of a [collective EU project](#) on the social inclusion of migrants and refugees, together with the City of Lampedusa.

Moreover, the Committee actively contributed to the organization of the [OIDP Annual Conference in Rio de Janeiro](#), notably by co-organizing a session on social inclusion and migration; one on the [Global Campaign](#); as well as one on [antiracism](#). The Committee also contributed to the selection and promotion of the annual [OIDP Award "Best Practice in Citizen Participation."](#), which was given to the City of Rennes for the project **“European Citizens' Initiative: Let’s ask Europe to give migrants a decent welcome.”**

Lastly, the Committee also participated in the official launch of the [Rede Nacional de Cidades Acolhedoras: Construindo territórios de cidadania](#) - a Brazilian initiative targeting LRGs for the integration of migrants, refugees and stateless people. In this context, the CSIPDHR contributed by sharing its experience in the coordination of local activities on Human Rights at the international levels; as well as by participating in an initiative on social inclusion at local level organized in Brasilia by the Association of Brazilian Municipalities (ABM).

Regarding other thematic focuses, a special emphasis was given this year to **Right to Water and to intercultural dialogue**. In March 2023, Valparaíso Region (Chile) and Grigny (France) and Co-President of the Committee, represented the UCLG-CSIPDHR at the [UN Water Conference](#). Both local representatives shared the experiences of their territories and the challenges that LRGs face in making water a human right and a common good with local, public, and sustainable management in all localities and regions of the world. LRGs participating in the Conference committed to fight for equitable and sustainable use of water resources and to ensure that public policies promote water and sanitation as a human right.

In November 2023, the Committee co-organized with the City of [La Courneuve](#) and UNAOC the 3rd iteration of UNAOC’s “City Dialogue” series. Focusing on the overarching theme of **“Building Intercultural Cities”**, the [La Courneuve Dialogue](#) gathered over 100 participants from over 10 countries at the Diplomatic Archives of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, with the aim of promoting intercultural exchanges and advancing inclusion within diverse communities. [The Cities of Iztapalapa; Grigny; Quilmes; Afadzato](#) represented the Committee. LRGs participating highlighted the role of local authorities in intercultural dialogue, notably by fostering
new territorial contracts to combat inequality and coordinate rights, services and opportunities. The themes of proximity, peace, Human Rights, migration at local level were at the core of the debate, and portrayed as powerful tools to strengthen multilateralism, security, respect and solidarity at global level.

Also at the initiative of the French Government, in June 2023 the Committee participated with the Co-president of the City of Grigny, Philip Rio, in the seminar "Territorial public action at the heart of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda: SDG 16 - local authorities acting locally and globally" organised by United Cities of France (CUF) and the French Senate, to present the key milestones and updates on the peace and Human Rights agenda at local level.

The UCLG-CSIPDHR is part of the multifaceted ecosystem of United Cities and Local Governments. 2023 was important as it was marked by the implementation of the UCLG Pact for the Future, notably through a series of processes such as the Local 4 Action Hub; the Future Envisioning Exercises; as well as through the renewal of the UCLG Policy Councils, an important political mechanism within UCLG which works closely with the Committee. Indeed, the Executive Bureau that met in Brussels in June 2023 agreed to take inspiration from the enablers of the Pact for the Future to refocus the Policy Councils. For instance, the “Right to the City and Inclusive Territories” Policy Council - which works in cooperation with the CSIPDHR - became “Right to the City: Reclaiming the Commons” and several active cities of the CSIPDHR - such as the Co-Presidency of Utrecht - took part in it. This will be an occasion to better link Human Rights to the Right to the City and the notion of “commons”, a topic of increasing importance in the network. To know more about the renewed Policy Councils and the topics that they will address, click here.

The Future Envisioning Exercises were also particularly relevant, as they allowed to develop an innovative methodology fostering the dialogue between academia, CSO and LRGs on key areas of work linked to the Pact for the Future. The Committee adopted this format for the co-organization with UCLG and the OIDP of the Future Envisioning Exercise on “Regaining Trust” focused on participatory democracy and citizens' relationship with local institutions; as well as for the LRGs consultation on homelessness and right to housing for the Human Rights Council report.

The topics of economy and care also gained more importance within UCLG and the Committee, and will be the object of an in-depth reflection in 2024. Regarding economy, the CSIPDHR kicked-off a shared reflection on the notions of financial inclusion and human-rights based economy, thanks to the leadership of Gwangju - which focused its last WHRCF on poverty - of Barcelona; of the Raoul Wallenberg Institute and thanks to the powerful call of the OHCHR. This reflection will pursue in 2024 in the framework of the activities of the Committee and the cooperation with the OHCHR; as well as during the 2024 High-Level Political Forum, which will focus on SDG 1 on “End poverty in all its forms everywhere.”

The topic of care also emerged in several local debates, including in the framework of the SDGs localization. In 2023, the Committee supported the City of Ciudad Juarez in the drafting of its local Charter on the Right to the City based on care; as well as City of Bogotà to highlight the linkages between care, human security, women’s rights and peace during the 4th edition of the Forum of
Cities and Territories of Peace. Moreover, the CSIPDHR was part of a filming project on the **Utopias of Iztapalapa**, a series of public spaces created by the Municipality to foster care, active citizenship and dignity for its citizens. The topic of care will also be at the core the Policy Councils, and will also be an important part of the update process of the UCLG Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City.

Last but not least, **accessibility** was also a relevant axis of the WHRCF, notably through the session organized by the UCLG Community of Practices on **Inclusive and Accessible Cities** “Inclusive Procurement Launchpad: Reducing Poverty and Inequalities through Inclusive Digitalization and Human Rights-based Procurement,” which represented an opportunity to take stock and explore further avenues for cooperation at local level on trainings and policy models for inclusive public procurement of information and communication technologies.

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