



**UCLG**  
Committee

Social Inclusion  
Participatory Democracy  
and Human Rights

# 2025 Action Plan



# 1

## History and mandate

Since 2005, the CSIPDHR has offered an international workspace dedicated to dialogue and collaboration between local governments around the world engaged on social inclusion, participatory democracy and human rights.

Under the current co-presidency of the Committee (Grigny, Gwangju, Mexico City, Utrecht, Seine-Saint-Denis), local and regional governments have worked together to respond to contemporary issues such as the right to housing; the right to care; the inclusion of migrants; the fight against violence against women; participatory democracy and anti-racism; accessibility; the fight against poverty; as well as the culture of peace and human security.

The activities of the CSIPDHR contribute to feeding the concept of “Human Rights Cities”. The objective of the Committee’s work is to strengthen the construction of a global movement of cities committed to the defense and promotion of human rights through the implementation of local public policies and international solidarity.

At the same time, the Committee aspires to actively contribute to local, regional and international discussions on the urban future, adopting a perspective focused on human rights, social and environmental justice as well as participatory democracy. This consists in promoting horizontal exchange within the UCLG network and through dialogues with international bodies and UN agencies.

In 2025, the new team of the Secretariat of the Committee aims to increase the visibility of the initiatives of local governments which aspire to play a role of transformation and emancipation for their inhabitants, through their local policies and public services through peer learning activities, co-construction of knowledge, international advocacy and by raising their voice at the global level.

# 2

## The main international processes of the CSIPDHR



### Process 1

### The Global Campaign “10,100, 1000 Human Rights Cities & Territories by 2030”

The global campaign “10, 100, 1,000 Human Rights Cities and Territories by 2030” revolves around an ambitious goal: to bring together 10, then 100, and finally 1,000 local and regional governments around the world by 2030, all dedicated to making human rights a reality for all people, everywhere, from the smallest rural communities to the largest metropolises. The Campaign aims to scale local actions on human rights to promote the recognition and participation of local and regional governments in global human rights agendas and mechanisms, including those of the UN.

In 2024, the third wave of the campaign began, focused on consolidating the achievements of the first two years. In 2025, we will launch the 4th wave of the campaign, which aims to identify and bring together cities around the world who wish to link their local and international action to human rights.

Provisional schedule (2025) for the consolidation of previous waves and launch of the 4th wave:

- March/May: Compilation of adhering cities and local governments
- June: Preparation of the Campaign timeline and publication in CISDPDH website
- June/July: Preparation of the 4th wave
- July/August/September: Launch of the Campaign's 4th wave
- Peer-learning activities (online) with the members of the Campaign to share their experience as human rights cities (dates to be defined)



## Process 2

### The renewal of the UCLG Global Agenda Charter for Human Rights in the City

The World Charter-Agenda on Human Rights in the City was adopted by UCLG in 2011 during the UCLG World Council in Florence, Italy. The document represents the first collective vision and roadmap at the global level for local governments on the local implementation of human rights, serving as a tool for local governments to help build more inclusive, democratic, and solidarity-based societies in dialogue with their inhabitants.

The CISDPDH has begun the process of updating the Charter-Agenda, facilitating a phase of consultation and co-creation. Aware of emerging perspectives on this issue, the new version of the document seeks to establish a renewed collective vision of local governments on human rights and a common framework for the Pact for the Future. In 2025, the Steering Committee (SC), consisting of around twenty members representing local and regional authorities and international expert partners of the Commission, will continue updating UCLG's reference document.

This second phase will aim to launch consultations and will result in the drafting of the content of the rights contained in the new structure of the document, adopted in 2023 (during the first phase). The third phase will aim for the finalization of the draft and specific consultations.

Provisional schedule (2025) for the second phase and beginning of third phase:

- April: Steering Board (SB) meeting
- Working group consultations (April/May/June)
- Proofreading of first draft (June)
- Presentation of draft to the Steering Board and Campaign members (July)
- Finalization of the draft (August)
- Political discussion during UCLG World Council (October 2025)



## Process 3

### Building a Guidance Framework for Building a Human Rights City

Currently, the CISDPDH is developing a "Framework of Guidance for Building a Human Rights City" (in English), co-designed by UCLG and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

Through online consultations with all the member cities of the Global Campaign, local governments have been able to promote reflection on the need for common frameworks for Human Rights Cities, contributing their comments and suggestions to the text. The Commission expects to present the final version of the Framework of Guidance during the UCLG World Congress in 2026.

## **3** Thematic areas of work with members of the CSIPDHR

**N.B.** *The themes of the Committee's work plan are directly proposed and led by the cities actively participating in our international workspace. They evolve according to the priorities and vision of each territory, but all imply horizontal networking and exchanges between local governments*



### **Focus 1**

#### **Promote the linkages between civic spaces and participatory democracy around a renewed dialogue between local governments and civil society**

*(With the Metropolitan City of Gwangju, the International Observatory of Participatory Democracy – IODP, in connection with the City of Córdoba)*

Strengthening democracy is a fundamental prerequisite for advancing urban and territorial equality. The constriction of civic space, prevalent not only in authoritarian regimes but also in democratic societies, undermines civil society activities and progress in human rights. This necessitates identifying forms and mechanisms of participatory democracy and accessible and inclusive co-creation mechanisms.

#### **2025 Activities:**

- Co-organization of the World Human Rights Cities Forum 2025 in Gwangju (15-17 May) on the theme "Peace and Solidarity: Human Rights Cities Resisting War and Violence"
- Co-organization of thematic sessions and participation in the ODP Conference in Cordoba (May 21-23) on the theme "Connect, Integrate, and Humanize: Cities Facing the Challenge of Building Community"
- Peer-learning activities (online) on the link between participatory democracy, human rights and civic space (dates to be defined)
- Consultations and meetings of the Working Group on substantial democracy, civil and political rights as part of the update process of the UCLG Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City



## Focus 2

### Promote the care lens for a renewed dialogue on rights

(With our members, UN Forums and UCLG spaces)

The concept of caring cities has gained significant importance in addressing urban challenges, focusing on inclusivity, dignity, and solidarity. Citizen engagement and co-governance are essential in shaping policies that address the diverse needs of communities, especially marginalized groups. By recognizing and supporting community-led care initiatives, cities can create inclusive, responsive, and accountable systems. By incorporating a care lens, cities can ensure that public services and policies are centered on human rights and the well-being of all residents, fostering a more just and equitable society.

#### 2025 Activities:

- Organization of a webinar on “Empowering Citizen Participation for Building Caring and Inclusive Cities” (9 April)
- Contributions to the elaboration of UCLG’s GOLD VII research process on “Economies of Equality and Care”, including a report on Participatory Budgeting (PB) as an inclusive tool to enable caring societies in collaboration with ODP
- Communication activities and international advocacy on using the care lens to promote human rights cities in UCLG international meetings and UN Forums



## Focus 3

### Promote collaboration for building human rights local Plans and Agendas

(With the OHCHR, City of Barcelona and the City of Bangkok)

In line with the Committee’s work on renewing the UCLG Global Agenda Charter for Human Rights in the City and co-creation of the Guidance Framework for Building a Human Rights City, we aim to continue helping cities achieve strong human rights frameworks. An important step of this process is to build Human Rights Plans and thematic agendas.

#### 2025 Activities:

- Continuation of the co-creation process of the Guidance Framework for Building a Human Rights City with the OHCHR
- Organization of a Mayors’ Dialogue with UN High Commissioner on human rights and local governments
- Participation in the consultation mechanisms on Bangkok’s Agenda to become a Human Rights City
- Participation in Barcelona’s consultation mechanism to renew its Human Rights Pact and Antiracism Plan (Horizon 2035)
- Give visibility to our members local Plans and Agendas on human rights and related thematic rights

# 4

## Strategic priorities linked to the CSIPDHR

### Objective 1: Revitalize the governance of the CSIPDHR and redefine the participation of its active cities

- Organize an in person meeting of the Co-Presidency and active members of the Committee
- Renew of Co-Presidencies and definition of strategic working areas for 2026
- Representation of the Committee members in the UCLG and international spaces: OIDP Conference, Executive Bureau and World Council of UCLG, Political Councils, UN Forums (United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, World Human Rights Cities Forum, High Level Political Forum, World Summit for Social Development) and international events (Global Disability Summit, Forum of Cities and Territories of Peace, Global Forum on Migration and Development Summit)

### Objective 2: Aligning narratives and participate in advocacy events and UCLG mechanisms

Contribute to the strategy of UCLG and the Pact for the Future by defending the human rights approach within the activities of the UCLG network and preparing positioning notes/declarations, particularly within:

- Annual UCLG meetings (Retreat, Executive Bureau and World Council).
- Local government days/sessions organized within the United Nations system.
- Other events organized by the cities of the UCLG network and partners (Forum of Cities and Territories of Peace, Forum of Peripheral Local Authorities (FALP), OIDP etc.).
- GOLD VII process on caring systems, the major report on decentralization co-constructed with the UCLG Research Department

In general, CISDPDH will work on aligning its work with UCLG's Local Social Covenant and embedding human rights in this process. As we approach the UN World Social Summit 2025 in Qatar and walk towards the UCLG's World Congress in 2026, the Local Social Covenant offers a unique opportunity to advance social justice, solidarity, and equality. By embedding human rights and social cohesion in the Local Social Covenant, we ensure that local governments are recognized and empowered within the global social agenda, reinforcing the importance of their role in a renewed multilateral system.

### Objective 3: Communications and improvement of CISDPDH's dissemination channels

For 2025, the objective is to give greater visibility to the key global processes of the year, with a better articulated approach to information regarding the different activities of the CSIPDHR. To this end, specific sections on the website will be consolidated to better promote:

- The Global Campaign “10, 100, 1000 human rights cities and territories by 2030”: lists of members, online form, access to membership forms, campaign objectives, etc.
- The specific thematic areas of work of the Committee for 2025 (Human Rights, Participatory Democracy...)

In general, the CSIPDHR will continue to publish articles and news online (CISDPDH website, LinkedIn and Instagram) regarding its main initiatives and those of our partners, as well as communicating local initiatives and actions around UN international days. The distribution of bimonthly newsletters to members will also continue.



## The 2025 provisional calendar of activities of the CSIPDHR

### UCLG Democracy and Human Rights Calendar of Events

Webinar AI & Local Democracy: What are we talking about? — 21 March 16.00 CET  
<https://oidp.net/es/content.php?id=1969>

Global Disability Summit 2025 — 2-3 April, Berlin <https://www.globaldisabilitysummit.org/>

UCLG Executive Bureau 2025 — 1-4 April, Sevilla  
<https://www.uclgmeets.org/conferences/Meetings>

Webinar: Empowering Citizen Participation for Building Caring and Inclusive Cities — 9 April  
<https://oidp.net/en/content.php?id=1970>

Forum of Cities and Territories of Peace — 2-4 May, Montevideo <https://forodepazmvd.uy/eng/>

World Human Rights Cities Forum 2025: “Peace and Solidarity: Human Rights Cities Resisting War and Violence” — 15-17 May, Gwangju: <https://en.whrcf.org/>

24th OIDP Conference: "Connect, Integrate, and Humanize: Cities Facing the Challenge of Building Community" — 21-23 May, Córdoba, Argentina <https://yoparticipo.cordoba.gob.ar/oidp/>

15th Global Forum on Migration and Development Summit — 11-13 June, Barranquilla, Colombia  
<https://www.gfmd.org/>

Local Governments & Human Rights: Panel Discussion and Mayors’ Dialogue with UN High Commissioner — 21-22 July, Geneva

UCLG World Council — October, Xi'an <https://www.uclgmeets.org/conferences/Meetings>

Second World Summit for Social Development 2025 — 4-6 November, Qatar  
<https://social.desa.un.org/second-world-summit-for-social-development>

Human Rights Day event (TBD) — 10 December

WELDI Project Final Event — 10-12 December, Utrecht

*\*Remember that our Committee is a co-constructed space, so these dates are subject to change to meet the agendas of our membership.*

20 February: [World Day of Social Justice](#)

1 March: [Zero Discrimination Day](#)

8 March: [International Women's Day](#)

21 March: [International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination](#)

20 June: [World Refugee Day](#)

15 September: [International Day for Democracy](#)

21 September: [International Day for Peace](#)

25 November: [International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women](#)

3 December: [International Day for Persons with Disabilities](#)

10 December: [Human Rights Day](#)

18 December: [International Migrants Day](#)