



**UCLG Committee
on Social Inclusion,
Participatory Democracy
and Human Rights**

The UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights aims at contributing to articulating the common voice of UCLG cities on social inclusion, participatory democracy and human rights, and to advise local governments on the design of these policies.

To that end, during 2015 the Committee carried out the following activities.

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Year 2015 was marked by a number of activities oriented to the **promotion of Human Rights in the city and the Right to the City**. The meetings, seminars and working groups organized upon the initiative of CSIPDHR member cities enabled to **extend the network**. The [Global Platform for the Right to the City](#) has become the permanent working space in which messages for inclusive, democratic and sustainable cities have been constructed, and where **alliances between Local Governments and civil society** have been reinforced – especially towards the definition of the [Habitat III Agenda](#).

This last year was also the one of the **recognition of the Right to the City** as one of the key messages brought by Local Governments towards Habitat III and beyond. This also means the recognition of the work undertaken so far by the CSIPDHR in this regard.

Finally, 2015 was also the year of the launching of the **program to assess the impact of public policy under the light of Human Rights** included in the [Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City](#).

1. ADVOCACY FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CITY AND THE RIGHT TO THE CITY

- **Mexico Declaration**

Having met in Mexico, on 20-22 July, on the occasion of the **International Seminar for the Right to the City** –which gathered more than 4.500 participants throughout three days-, Committee members adopted a [Declaration](#) that reaffirms **the importance of the Right to the City in a mostly urban world where inequalities threaten togetherness**.

In the same line as the [Declaration of the First Summit of Local Governments for the Right to the City](#), held in Saint-Denis in 2012, the Mexico Declaration concretises the Right to the City in **eight major engagements** and enables the progress towards its implementation by setting its basic principles.



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The Declaration calls for **extending the network** of Local Governments for the Right to the City and to build **strategic partnerships with civil society**, especially as part of the [Global Platform for the Right to the City](#), in order to be able to effectively address it towards the [Habitat III Agenda](#). It also asks to the Habitat III Bureau to guarantee an effective participation of Local Governments and their networks, in close collaboration with civil society organizations, in the Habitat III Conference preparation, organization and implementation.

- **Participation at COP21 and organization of a meeting with elected representatives and citizens as part of the UCLG World Council**

Upon the initiative of its co-presidents of the **Paris metropolitan region** – Plaine Commune and the Seine-Saint-Denis Departmental Council-, the Committee have conducted some strong moments in the framework of the COP21 and the UCLG World Council. The following events enabled to **consolidate messages and alliances for fair, democratic and sustainable territories** between local governments and social movements:



- **“From COP21 to Habitat III: local governments and citizens at the heart of the challenges”** (Saint-Denis, 5th December): UCLG World Council’s open session. More than 200 local government representatives, citizens and experts delivered very clear messages: we need to rethink the way we build and develop our territories in

order **to achieve full ecological, democratic and social sustainability**. There is a [video record](#) of the session available online.

- **“Ecological Transition and the Right to the City”** (Montreuil, 5th December): the Committee, in partnership with Habitat International Coalition, brought the topic of the Right to the City to the People’s Climate Summit agenda through an open debate that gathered local citizens, social movements, academics and local elected representatives. The **alliance between local governments and civil society** was highlighted as an essential element to limit the



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climatic consequences of the world's growing urbanization process. The Right to the City, through the sharing of urban resources and as long as it is oriented to ensure common "good living" in cities, enables **a new paradigm towards sustainable urbanization based on solidarity and sustainability.**

- **"Ecological transition in popular peripheries: a priority to reduce inequalities"** (Le Bourget, 8th December): upon the initiative of the Seine-Saint-Denis Departmental Council, the COP21 Official Area hosted a side event on peripheral popular territories' vulnerability to climate change and the **opportunities offered by ecological transition in terms of social inclusion.**



- **"From COP21 to Habitat III: Cities and Citizens' Networks engaged for Global Challenges"** (Paris, 10th December: the *Fondation pour le Progrès de l'Homme* organized a dialogue between European and American foundations on the sustainable cities and local governments' networks. It was highlighted the **need to work together to build fair, solidary and sustainable cities**, especially in views of the Habitat III summit.

- **Active participation within the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, coordinated by UCLG**

The Global Taskforce gathers the main global and regional networks of local authorities, in order to set up political messages for Local Governments vis-à-vis the United Nations conferences. In 2015, the Committee actively participated in the construction of these messages. Patrick Braouezec also participated on behalf of the Committee as a member of the Global Task Force, at the **Habitat III second**



Preparatory Conference (Prep Com 2), which was held in Nairobi, 14-16 April 2015. He brought to this meeting the topics of social inclusion, participatory democracy, Human Rights in the city and the Right to the City.

- Involvement in the [Global Platform for the Right to the City](#) to promote a New paradigm for urban development in the [Habitat III Agenda](#)

The Platform gathers civil society organizations, local governments and research centres, aiming at influencing the adoption of engagement, public policies, projects and actions for fair, democratic, sustainable and inclusive cities. The Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights is co-founder of this platform and takes part of the **“Political Advocacy”** and **“Communication”** groups.



Global Platform for the Right to the City
Plataforma Global por el Derecho a la Ciudad
Plataforma Global pelo Direito à Cidade

The CSIPDHR active participation in the Platform in 2015 enabled to coordinate the political advocacy efforts of civil society with those of Local Governments towards Habitat III. Indeed, the Platform has strongly allied with the [Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments](#) in order to bring strong messages to the global stage, such as the need for the **representation of local governments and civil society on the definition process of the Agenda and the inclusion of Right to the City**. Such alliance enabled to converge to propose common experts for the [Policy Units](#)¹ that were formed by the Habitat III Secretariat in order to produce analysis and proposals on the ten thematic issues of the New Urban Agenda, as well as to adopt political statements mirroring common positions towards habitat III process.

Year 2015 enabled the Platform to consolidate its work by **producing a number of documents** –such as a [guidelines document](#), [analysis of the various preparatory documents for the New Urban Agenda](#) (such as the [Policy Papers](#)²) or a [statement claiming for the inclusion of the Right to the City in the Agenda](#).

¹ The Policy Units aim at gathering high-level experts in order to conduct research and analyses on every thematic issue, as well as to identify good practices and proofed knowledge. Its goal is also to issue political recommendations on every topic for the elaboration of the New Urban Agenda –the global agenda of sustainable urban development for the next 20 years that will result from the Habitat III Conference.

² Basic documents for the Habitat III Agenda prepared by UN agencies under the coordination of UN-Habitat. They are available [here](#).

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- **Co-organization of a number of events of the occasion of the [Tunis World Social Forum](#).**

The Committee co-organized, along with the Polis Institute, **a conference on the Right to the City and a learning workshop** on the topic "How to implement the Right to the City to build sustainable, democratic and inclusive cities?" It also took part in a **debate on the expectations and needs of civil society vis-à-vis Habitat III**, which was organized by Habitat International Coalition (HIC). The Executive Technical Secretariat of the Committee



also participated in a **Seminar on Participatory Democracy in Tunisia**, organized by the NGOs ENDA-ECOPOP and Afro Leadership with the support of the Fund of Tunisian Local Authorities, and in **a workshop on Social Cohesion and Local Development** –organized by the UNDP and the Forum of Tunisian Democracy and Freedoms.

- **Analysis of the Habitat III process and formation of recommendations**

The Committee has been actively involved on the definition process of the [Habitat III Agenda](#), by **issuing analysis and comments to the thematic preparatory documents of the Agenda**. It has also participated through the **Urban Dialogues** website –an online platform set up by UN-Habitat enabling to address the reactions to the Habitat III Agenda preparatory documents produced by experts and adopted in every thematic meeting. In July 2015, the Committee issued its [comments to the thematic issue paper on the Right to the City and Cities for All](#). These comments also fed those collectively elaborated within the framework of the Global Platform for the Right to the City ([here in English](#)) and within UCLG and the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments ([also in English](#)).

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- **Political promotion of the Global Charter-Agenda of Human Rights in the City and the European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City, as well as of the document For a World of Inclusive Cities**



Each meeting allow the Committee to promote the Global Charter-Agenda of Human Rights in the City and the European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City. These tools were also promoted activity through **a systematic reference to these charters in the New Urban Agenda working papers.**

- **Representation of Local Governments before the UN Human Rights Council on the occasion of the presentation of the Report «Local Governments and Human Rights» of the Advisory Committee of the UN Human Rights Council (ACHRC)**

The Advisory Committee of the UN Human Rights Council's report on the role of Local Governments regarding the promotion and protection of Human Rights was presented on 22nd September 2015 before the UN Human Rights Council, during its 30th Session. The Committee had contributed to the elaboration of this report in 2014. This meant an important progress of the promotion work for the territorialisation of Human Rights conducted by local governments engaged with the Committee for over ten years. This is also why the UCLG World Secretariat asked Patrick Braouezec, CSIPDHR Co-President, to **represent UCLG addressing a statement before the UN Human Rights Council for the official representation of the report.** In his remarks, he invited Council member States to **keep promoting the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City**, as well as to **implement independent monitoring mechanisms**. Braouezec also recommended the **Advisory Committee's conclusions to be included in the Habitat III New Urban Agenda**, so as local governments, along with civil society, are recognised as key actors for the guarantee of Human Rights in their territories.



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In addition to this presentation, on September 18th the Committee participated in **a meeting organized by this report's promoters**: Republic of Korea, Romania, Chile and Egypt, with the attendance of Bahram Ghazi (officer of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights), Mugyanto Mugy (from the Indonesian NGO INFID) and Anselmo Lee (Korean Foundation for Human Rights).

This meeting enabled to **identify working lines to monitor the report** –especially the implementation of its guiding principles, which will be the specific object of a 6th World Human Rights Cities Forum's session, to be held in Gwangju in 2016.

2. INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

- **International Seminar of Local Governments for the Right to the City**

From 20 to 22 April 2015, the Committee and Mexico City co-organized the **International Seminar of Local Governments for the Right to the City**.

The meeting was a great success, as proofed by the participation of 4.500 Mexican citizens, inhabitants, city agents, students and representatives of grassroots organizations. The seminar gathered 45 speakers, both local and international, among whom a great deal of representatives of local governments, of civil society and from the academic sector who attended in order to share their reflections and experiences of implementation of the Right to the City and the Human Rights in the city. Ten countries were represented with an especially strong presence of Latin America, as well as with representatives of neighbourhood organizations, NGOs and international organizations. The schedule was articulated around two plenary sessions and eight thematic forums that allowed to adress the issue **"The Right to the City: from local implementation to global vindication"**.

This seminar was based on an important territorial anchorage. Through a sound work to strengthen relationships with neighbourhoods and popular urban movements, the City of Mexico Secretariat for Social Development was able to mobilise all its resources to organize **a visit to the participatory rehabilitation program of the Tepito neighborhood** and the participation in an **event on senior people's rights**, in the presence of 5.000 beneficiaries of a universal basic income for senior citizens –which illustrated the City of Mexico's work for the Right to the City.



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- **5th World Human Rights Cities Forum, Gwangju (South Korea)**

From 15 to 18 May 2018, the Gwangju International Centre and the Metropolitan City of Gwangju organized the 5th World Human Rights Cities Forum with the collaboration of the Committee. This fifth edition allowed the **consolidation of the global alliance of cities for Human Rights on the basis of Gwangju guiding principles for a Human Rights City** (2011) and **to continue the exchange**



of experiences of local implementation of rights. Over 500 participants attended the Forum, including city representatives (among whom members of UCLG [Asian and Pacific Section-ASPAC](#)), advocacy NGOs, social movements and local elected representatives, as well as researchers and UN experts in Human Rights.

- **UCLG Culture Summit**

The first **Culture Summit of United Cities and Local Governments** (UCLG) was co-organized by the [Culture Committee](#), the city of Bilbao and UCLG from **18 to 20 March 2015** gathering around 300 participants. As part of the summit, the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights contributed to the **extraordinary session "Culture and Social Inclusion"**, based on the idea that participation in local cultural life may be key to social inclusion. In this regard, it was discussed **how cultural policies may turn into a central axis to build up a critic and active citizenship and strengthen social bonds.**



- **"Dialogue between Latin-American Cities" meeting in Bogota**

The Committee's Executive Secretariat and Mr. Gamaliel Martínez Pacheco, the Mexico City Director for the Family Integral System, took the floor in the **Dialogue between Latin-American Cities**, organized by the city of Bogota (3-6 June 2015). This meeting aimed at discussing the **biggest challenges of Latin America** regarding the construction of democratic, inclusive, sustainable and pacific cities. It was also an opportunity to **start preparing the UCLG 5th**

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World Congress, which will take place in this same city in 2016, and to feed proposals for the **political advocacy strategy ahead of Habitat III** (Quito, 2016).

- **International Seminar “Implementing the Right to the City to eradicate poverty”**

On 19-20 November, the Bogota Secretariat for Social integration and the CSIPDHR co-organized an International Seminar on the Right to the City as an instrument to eradicate poverty, thus creating a space for discussion where local governments representatives (such as those from Montevideo, Barcelona or Mexico), members of international networks (such as the Observatory of Social, Economic and Cultural Rights of Barcelona) and experts on Human Rights **shared their experiences** regarding public policies aiming at building inclusive, habitable, fair, democratic and sustainable cities. This seminar enabled to **present before Bogota inhabitants the results of the monitoring report on social inclusion policies** in terms of rights of the city of Bogota (see below).



3. PRODUCTION AND DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE

- **Launch of a program to monitor local public policies' impact in terms of Human Rights**

In 2015, upon the initiative of Bogota (Secretariat for Social Development), the Committee launched **a new monitoring program to monitor the application of Human Rights** at local level, in order to put Committee's resources at Local Governments' disposal for them to evaluate their social inclusion policies' impact under the light of the [Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City](#). The Monitoring Programme of Human Rights enables **to assess the situation of Human Rights in a given territory through a Citizen approach**, as well as **to propose concrete measures and priorities** to improve the guarantee of Human Rights at local level.



Bogota was interested in monitoring the impact in terms of rights of the first pillar of its "[Bogota Humana](#)" **development plan**, titled as *A City that overcomes segregation and discrimination: the human being at the centre of development concerns*. In this context, the city of Bogota implemented public policies focused on fighting multidimensional poverty, by putting people at the centre of public action. Through its programmes, Bogota focused on rights as a means to renew public action with citizen participation and prioritizing people in need. The monitoring programme was **implemented as a pilot project in Bogota**, with the City's Secretariat for Social Integration focusing on three main

policies: (1) **well-being in early childhood**; (2) **economic security for senior citizens**, and (3) **homeless people**.

In order to monitor the impact of these policies in terms of rights, an **international team of experts** from the [Centre for Social Studies of the University of Coimbra](#) and the Mexican organization [Operational Center for Settlement and Housing \(COPEVI\)](#) was set up. The team conducted the study through a **participative action research methodology**, together with civil servants, citizens and users of these public policies. The results of the research were presented in the framework of the International Seminar "Implementing the Right to the City to eradicate poverty" (see above). The full study, titled "[The](#)

Rights Approach through the “Bogotá Humana” Development Plan: Towards a New Construction of the Public Sphere (in Spanish) is available online, as well as a [49-page executive summary](#), available in the three working languages of the Committee. Finally, three case studies on the experiences of Bogota have been included in the [Inclusive Cities Observatory](#) database: **Early Childhood**, **Ageing and Older People**, and **Homelessness**.



4. WORKING MEETINGS

- **New UCLG Agenda and [GOLD project](#)**

The Committee actively took part in the definition of the UCLG new global agenda through its **participation on the thematic study on metropolises and peripheral cities** undertaken as part of the next UCLG report on decentralisation and local democracy, **GOLD IV**. This research was conducted in partnership with the World Secretariat and UCLG members, the Committee on Peripheral Cities, metropolis and the Research Lab *La Vue* (Paris VIII University). In this framework, the Committee participated in a consultative meeting convened by the Committee on Peripheral Cities in Nanterre on 5 February in order to contribute to the definition of the field of the research. It also took part in another consultative meeting for UCLG members about the study, organised by the World Secretariat in Barcelona, 30-31 March. Finally, Plaine Commune represented the Committee in the research's steering committee set up by the *La Vue* lab in order to contribute to the elaboration of the study.

5. COMMUNICATION

- **Dissemination of the [Inclusive Cities Observatory](#)'s case studies**

In order to promote the **68 case studies of the Inclusive Cities Observatory**, the Committee published a case study every week in the News section of its website, and have **disseminated them through its social networks** - [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

- **Meeting in Mexico**

The **[first 2015 biannual meeting](#)** of the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights took place on **21st April 2016 in Mexico City**, on the occasion of the **[International Seminar of Local Governments for the Right to the City](#)**. Around 40 participants attended the meeting, among whom local governments' and civil society organisations' representatives. The minutes of this meeting is available online through the **[following link](#)**.



- **Working meeting on the Right to the City in the framework of the New Urban Agenda**

On the occasion of the **[UCLG Executive Bureau in Porto Alegre \(Brazil\)](#)**, the Committee organized a meeting, on Friday 12th June, on **["The Right to the City in the New Urban Agenda –towards Inclusive, Democratic and Sustainable Cities"](#)**. Committee's local governments' members, other city networks' representatives and partners from civil society organizations (members of the [Global Platform for the Right to the City](#)) shared their perspectives on the Right to the City in order to consolidate their proposal to include it in the Habitat III Agenda. It also aimed at defining common strategies and at coordinating the political advocacy to influence the content of the Agenda, which will define the main urban challenges for the coming 20 years.

- **Structural and content improvements of the CSIPDHR website, and increase of the Committee's influence on social networks**

The contents of the CSIPD website (www.cisdh.uclg.org) have been continuously updated throughout the year 2015. Additionally, Committee members have been informed of its news thanks to a regular delivering of bimonthly **newsletters** and a number of **circulars**.

Three new sections have been created in the **"Right to the City" Section**: a section on the [international meetings on the Right to the City](#); one [about the Global Platform on the Right to the City](#), and another one [that monitors the Habitat III process](#), with a constant updating of the documents produced as part of this process.

Finally, the regular work of content publication on social networks enabled a **notable growth of followers** on Twitter and Facebook, which helps to disseminate Committee's strongest messages.

EXTENSION OF THE COMMITTEE'S NETWORK

On 21-22 October 2015, Patrick Braouezec and Sylvie Ducatteau from Plaine Commune –the urban community from the Parisian metropolitan region that co-presides the Committee- met **Madrid and Barcelona new governments**. These meetings aimed at presenting the Committee's work to promote cities as commons and to invite them to join the network. Indeed, **Madrid adhered to the Committee on**

January 2016 in order to contribute to the promotion of Human Rights and Local Democracy and to join Local Governments' movement for the Right to the City. **Barcelona representatives expressed their intention for the city to retake its place in the network**, so as to exchange experiences and ideas and to innovate for better respond to cities' democratic challenges.



ACTIVE PARTICIPATION TO THE UCLG STRATEGY

2015 was marked by a **new partnership between UCLG and the European Commission** in order to contribute to strengthen the network. In this framework, the Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights, represented by its Co-Presidents from the [Departmental Council of Seine-Saint-Denis](#) and the urban community of [Plaine Commune](#), as well as by its Executive Secretariat, took part in the **"UCLG Campus" (9-13 February)**, which gathered the whole network in order to create synergies between the various sections, committees and working groups of UCLG in views of the Habitat III Agenda's definition process. An important part of this meeting was focused on **common strategies**. The Committee was recognised as a **central element regarding the UCLG coordination work with civil society** and acknowledged for its important thematic work within the network. Therefore, in 2015 the Committee received a structural support from UCLG.



ALCALDÍA MAYOR
DE BOGOTÁ D.C.

