

- **Global Charter-Agenda  
for Human Rights  
in the City**

- **Charte-Agenda Mondiale  
des Droits de l'Homme  
dans la Cité**

- **Carta-Agenda Mundial  
de Derechos Humanos  
en la Ciudad**



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

**Commission Inclusion  
Sociale, Démocratie  
Participative et Droits  
Humains de CGLU**

**Comisión de Inclusión  
Social, Democracia  
Participativa y Derechos  
Humanos de CGLU**

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## Contents

## Sommaire

## Índice

---

| <b>Global Charter-Agenda<br/>for Human Rights<br/>in the City</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>Charte-Agenda Mondiale<br/>des Droits de l'Homme<br/>dans la Cité</b> | <b>25</b> | <b>Carta-Agenda Mundial<br/>de Derechos Humanos<br/>en la Ciudad</b> | <b>47</b> |
|---|----------|--|-----------|--|-----------|
| Contents  | 4        | Sommaire   | 26        | Índice   | 48        |
| About us  | 5        | Sur nous   | 27        | Sobre nosotros   | 49        |
| Presentation  | 6        | Présentation   | 28        | Presentación   | 50        |
| Preamble  | 8        | Préambule  | 30        | Preámbulo  | 52        |
| General Provisions  | 9        | Dispositions Générales   | 31        | Disposiciones Generales  | 53        |
| Agenda of Rights<br>and Obligations                               | 10       | Agenda des Droits<br>et Obligations                                      | 32        | Agenda de Derechos<br>y Obligaciones                                 | 54        |
| Final Provisions  | 24       | Dispositions Finales   | 46        | Disposiciones Finales  | 68        |

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Comisión de Inclusión Social, Democracia Participativa  
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# Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City



UCLG Committee  
on Social Inclusion,  
Participatory Democracy  
and Human Rights

## Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>About us</b>   | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>Presentation</b>   | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>Preamble</b>   | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>General Provisions</b>   | <b>9</b>  |
| A. Objective  | 9         |
| B. Scope of Application   | 9         |
| C. Values and Principles  | 9         |
| <b>Agenda of Rights and Obligations</b>                                   | <b>10</b> |
| I. Right to the City  | 10        |
| II. Right to Participatory Democracy                                      | 11        |
| III. Right to Civic Peace and Safety in the City                          | 12        |
| IV. Right of Women and Men to Equality                                    | 13        |
| V. Rights of Children   | 14        |
| VI. Right to Accessible Public Services                                   | 15        |
| VII. Freedom of Conscience and Religion, Opinion<br>and Information       | 16        |
| VIII. Right to Peaceful Meeting, Association and to<br>Form a Trade Union | 17        |
| IX. Cultural Rights   | 18        |
| X. Right to Housing and Domicile  | 19        |
| XI. Right to Clean Water and Food   | 21        |
| XII. Right to Sustainable Urban Development                               | 22        |
| <b>Final Provisions</b>   | <b>24</b> |

## About us

**United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)** is the global platform that represents and defends the interests of local governments before the international community and works to give cities more political influence on global governance.

The mission of the **Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights** is to contribute to building a common voice for the cities of UCLG in the areas of social inclusion, participatory democracy and human rights. It also aims to guide local governments in designing these policies and to that end, fosters political debates, the exchange of experiences and peer learning among cities around the world.

For more information:  
[www.uclg.org](http://www.uclg.org)  
[www.uclg-cisd.org](http://www.uclg-cisd.org)

# Presentation

## Background

The 1990s was a milestone in terms of recognition of the role of local governments as pillars of states' democratic quality. Some years later, recognition of cities as key players in the guarantee of human rights in their role of providers of public services and agents responsible for education, health and housing policies would gain ground. This international debate would be translated into the claim for “the right to the city”, according to which the city is a collective space which belongs to all its inhabitants and which must offer the necessary conditions for a decent life from a social, political, cultural, economic and environmental point of view. As a result of this process, various local human rights charters were adopted from 2000 onwards:

- the **European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City** (Saint-Denis - France, 2000), signed by more than 375 European cities;

- the **World Charter on the Right to the City**, drafted by social movements gathered in the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil (2001);
- the **Charter of Rights and Responsibilities of Montreal** (Canada, 2006);
- the **Mexico City Charter for the Right to the City** (Mexico, 2010);
- the **Gwangju Human Rights Charter** (South Korea, 2012).

The concept of the “right to a solidarity-based and polycentric metropolis” would emerge afterwards intensively in the framework of the Forum of Peripheral Local Authorities (FALP) and is now being developed.



## Drafting Process of the Charter-Agenda

In order to contribute to the international promotion of the right to the city, the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights drafted the **Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City**, an initiative that emerged from the Local Authorities Forum for Social Inclusion and Participatory Democracy (FAL) that took place in Caracas in 2006. Based on the discussions between local governments from around the world that took place in this Forum, a group of experts from various countries wrote a first draft (2007-2008), which was then discussed and amended by elected representatives, experts and representatives of civil society from all over the world (2009-2010).

Under the initial leadership of Barcelona Provincial Council (*Diputació de Barcelona*) and subsequently of the city of Nantes and the Pays de la Loire Region, the Global Charter-Agenda was collectively discussed at several international events, including the last three FALs and World Social Forums (Nairobi, 2007; Belém do Pará, 2009; and Dakar, 2011), the I and II FALPs (Nanterre, 2006; Getafe, 2010), the 5th World Urban Forum of UN HABITAT (Rio de Janeiro, 2010), the 4th World Forum on Human Rights in Nantes (2010) and the 3rd UCLG World Congress (Mexico City, 2010). Research centers such as the Catalonia Institute for Human Rights (IDHC) and the Centre for Social Studies (CES) of the University of Coimbra have also been involved in this process from the very beginning.

The added value of the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City is that each human right featured in the document is accompanied by an action plan that serves as reference for concrete steps to undertake by local governments. Signatory cities are invited to set up a local agenda with deadlines and indicators in order to assess their efficiency in implementing these rights. The Charter-Agenda will come into effect in each city after a consultation and participation process allowing residents to discuss it and adapt it both to local reality and to the national legal framework; and upon acceptance by a qualified majority of the municipal assembly. The result of this process will be the adoption of a Local Charter-Agenda in each signatory municipality.

The World Council of UCLG held in Florence in December 2011 formally adopted the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City and invited all UCLG members to sign it. In the current situation of economic crisis and a possible reduction of rights, the Charter-Agenda is a tool for local governments to build more inclusive, democratic and solidarity-based societies in dialogue with urban dwellers.



## Preamble

Whereas all human beings are endowed with the rights and freedoms recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the international instruments that build upon it, in particular, the International Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and on Civil and Political Rights (1966), the regional conventions and charters of human rights protection and other basic human rights treaties,

Whereas all human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent, as indicated in the Vienna Declaration (1993), and reaffirmed in the Millennium Declaration (2000) and the Declaration for the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Nations (2005); and that therefore not only is the realization of economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for the full exercise of political rights, but at the same time only the exercise of civil and political rights permits the participation in the decision-making mechanisms that may lead to the achievement of economic and social rights,

Whereas the city is a political community in which all its inhabitants participate in a common project of freedom, equality of men's and women's rights, and development,

Whereas the degree of freedom of women gives the general measure of the freedom of a society; and it is thus appropriate to act in favor of the effective equality of men and women and to actively promote the participation of women in local decision-making,

Convinced of the need to promote in our cities and territories a form of development that is sustainable, equitable, inclusive and respectful of human rights without discrimination; and of the need to act to extend democracy and local autonomy so as to contribute to building a world of peace, justice and solidarity,

Taking particularly into consideration that extreme poverty is in itself a violation of human rights and stressing the need to respect human rights in situations of economic crisis,

Whereas the mission of local governments, through their actions and authority, is to apply this project, they must play a fundamental role in guaranteeing the effective exercise of the human rights of all their inhabitants,

Whereas citizenship, with its rights, duties and responsibilities is particularly expressed at the level of the city.



# General Provisions

## A. Objective

The *Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City* aims to promote and strengthen the human rights of all the inhabitants of all cities in the world.

## B. Scope of Application

- All Charter-Agenda provisions apply to all city inhabitants, individually and collectively, without discrimination. For purposes of this Charter-Agenda, all inhabitants are citizens without any distinction. Any discrimination based on any ground such as sex, race, color, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation shall be prohibited. A city inhabitant is any person that lives within its territory even if without fixed domicile.
- The exercise of the rights enunciated in the present Charter-Agenda complements, develops and reinforces the rights that already exist at the national level by virtue of the constitution, the laws and the international obligations of the State.
- City obligations listed in this instrument should be understood as the duties of local authorities and administration; in accordance with the powers they have been legally endowed.
- A “city” is defined as a local government of any size: regions, urban agglomerations, metropolises, municipalities and other local authorities freely governed.
- A “territory” is a managed area which falls directly or indirectly under the jurisdiction of the city.
- The reference to “access” in different sections of this Charter-Agenda is to be understood from both a physical or material perspective (proximity) as well as an economic one (affordability).

## C. Values and Principles

The Charter-Agenda is based on the following values and principles:

- The dignity of every human being as a supreme value
- Freedom, equality particularly between men and women, non-discrimination, recognition of differences, justice and social inclusion.
- Democracy and citizen participation as the policy of cities
- Universality, indivisibility and interdependence of human rights
- Social and environmental sustainability
- Cooperation and solidarity among all members of each city, as well as among all cities throughout the world
- Shared and differentiated responsibility of the cities and their inhabitants, in accordance with abilities and means.

# Agenda of Rights and Obligations

## I. Right to the City

1. a) All city inhabitants have the right to a city constituted as a local political community that ensures adequate living conditions for all the people, and provides good coexistence among all its inhabitants, and between them and the local authority.  
  
b) Every man and woman benefits from all rights enunciated in the present Charter-Agenda and are fully-fledged actors in the life of the city.  
  
c) All city inhabitants have the right to participate in the configuration and coordination of territory as a basic space and foundation for peaceful life and coexistence.  
  
d) All city inhabitants have the right to available spaces and resources allowing them to be active citizens. The working and common spaces shall be respectful of everyone's values and of the value of pluralism.
2. The city offers its inhabitants all available means to exercise their rights.



The signatories of the Charter are encouraged to develop contact with neighboring cities and territories with the aim of building caring communities and regional capitals.

As a framework and summary of all rights provided for in this Charter-Agenda, the above right will be satisfied to the degree in which each and every one of the rights described therein are fully effective and guaranteed domestically.

3. City inhabitants have the duty to respect the rights and dignity of others.

### Suggested Action Plan

- a) Adoption and application of a human rights training program for the employees of local public services, with emphasis on the respect for differences, coexistence and the common good, as well as, if needed, the hiring of human rights specialists.
- b) A participatory analysis or audit of human rights in the city, which would allow for a diagnostic of the situation and the formulation of a local development plan based on citizen participation.
- c) Periodic evaluation of the Charter-Agenda as part of a public consultation.
- d) A participatory local action plan on human rights, as a result of the previous analysis and evaluation.
- e) Creation of different institutions, independent of the political authority, empowered to: provide information to citizens on how to gain access to their rights; receive complaints and suggestions from the city's inhabitants; perform inquiry and social mediation functions.

## II. Right to Participatory Democracy

1. All city inhabitants have the right to participate in political and city management processes, in particular:
  - a) To participate in the decision-making processes of local public policies;
  - b) To question local authorities regarding their public policies, and to assess them;
  - c) To live in a city that guarantees public transparency and accountability.
2. The city promotes a quality participation of its inhabitants in local affairs, ensures them access to public information, and recognizes their ability to impact on local decisions. The city particularly encourages the participation of women in full respect of the exercise of their rights. It encourages as well the participation of minority groups. It promotes the participation of children in affairs directly relevant to them.

The city promotes the exercise of all its inhabitants' collective and individual rights. To this end, it facilitates the participation of civil society, including human rights protection associations, in the formulation of policies and the implementation of measures aimed at realizing the rights of its inhabitants.

3. City inhabitants participate in local affairs according to their abilities and means. They take part in decisions that concern them, and express their opinions towards other individuals and groups in a spirit of tolerance and pluralism. City inhabitants take on the local policy in terms of the common interest, for the benefit of the community.

### Suggested Action Plan

#### Short-term

- a) Promote measures for participation in electoral processes.
- b) Promote the political and social participation of people that do not enjoy the right to vote in local elections.

- c) Establish mechanisms to provide all city inhabitants with access to transparent and accessible public information. In particular, essential information should be published in the city's most common languages.
- d) Adoption of measures granting the freedom of movement and the ability to voice opposition when large public events are organized in the city.
- e) Annual publication of a clearly drafted summary of the city's budget and balance sheet.
- f) Promote associations and social capital in the city via, among other means, the establishment of a system of public premises for the meetings of local entities, movements and associations.

#### Mid-term

- a) Establish a consultation process for the preparation of the budget.
- b) Establish a system of citizen participation for the drafting of local projects, programs and policies, including the city's master plan and the local regulations on participation. Extension of the participatory methodology to the follow-up and evaluation of local policies.
- c) Organize consultations open to all city inhabitants, when justified by the general interest issues presented.
- d) Adoption of a system to petition the local authorities.
- e) Promote before the competent national and international authorities the legal recognition of the right to vote in local elections for all the residents of the city, irrespective of their country of citizenship.

### III. Right to Civic Peace and Safety in the City

1. All city inhabitants have the right to personal and material safety against any type of violence, including that potentially committed by law enforcement agencies.
2. The city ensures the security and physical and mental safety of all its inhabitants, and takes measures to combat acts of violence, regardless of who the perpetrators may be.

The city is equipped with democratic law enforcement agencies, prepared to protect all its inhabitants without discrimination. Law enforcement officers are expressly forbidden from resorting to any cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment.

When detention, retention or imprisonment facilities exist under the responsibility of the city, those places will allow the visit of certain independent authorities.

The city adopts measures to combat school and domestic violence and, in particular, violence against women and vulnerable groups, such as children, the elderly and the disabled.

The city assumes its role in the management of social tensions, in order to prevent friction between the different groups that live in the city from turning into actual conflict. To this end, it fosters coexistence, social mediation and dialogue among those groups.

3. City inhabitants act in a manner compatible with the promotion of everyone's safety. They respect civic peace.



### Suggested Action Plan

#### Short-term

- a) Start up a participatory process for the different approaches on improving safety across the city's different communities and neighborhoods.
- b) Granting of government credit facilities and financial aid, and provision of business premises for local networks that work in high-risk neighborhoods.
- c) Implementation of a system of coordination and exchange of information on a regular basis with local judiciary authorities.
- d) Specialized training for local police forces, on awareness of and respect towards the different social and cultural realities of the city, in preparation for interventions in high-risk neighborhoods.
- e) Specialist human rights training for local police officers.

#### Mid-term

- a) Encourage the different departments in charge of urban planning, parks and gardens, public lighting, police and social services, to adopt all-encompassing measures to make public and semi-private areas safer and more accessible.
- b) Foster the appropriation of public spaces by citizens as a means to build a public identity linked to the design and care of the space.
- c) Encourage the respective national justice systems to analyze crime patterns, with the aim of decriminalizing those categories of minor offenses, petty crimes and antisocial behavior that are easier to combat with non-punitive measures which attempt to rehabilitate and integrate the offenders.

## IV. Right of Women and Men to Equality

1. All city inhabitants have the right not to be treated in a discriminatory manner by reason of their gender.
2. The city adopts all necessary measures, including regulations, prohibiting discrimination against women in all its forms.

The city refrains from engaging in any act or practice of discrimination against women and ensures that public authorities and institutions act in conformity with this obligation.

The city takes all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women by any person, organization or enterprise.

The city takes, in particular in the political, social, economic and cultural fields, all appropriate measures to ensure the full development of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men.

3. All city inhabitants refrain from engaging in any act or practice that may be detrimental to women's rights.

### Suggested Action Plan

- a) Adoption of a local action plan for gender equality that guarantees non-discrimination between men and women in all fields and that gives credit to women's contribution to the city.
- b) Adoption of priority provisions to facilitate the access to social housing by women in single-parent homes or by victims of gender violence.
- c) Adoption of measures to promote a better access of public spaces by women.
- d) Strive for full equality in the composition of local governmental bodies, including the board of directors of public local companies.



## V. Rights of Children

1. All the children in the city, whatever their gender, have the right to living conditions that help in their physical, mental and ethical development and to enjoy all the rights recognized by the 1989 International Convention on the Rights of the Child. In accordance with this convention, a child is any person under the age of 18.
2. The city ensures that all children live in decent conditions and, in particular, that they have the opportunity to receive normal schooling that contributes to their personal development, in the respect of human rights. Where not provided by other levels of government, the city provides free and compulsory primary education for all and ensures, together with the competent authorities, that secondary education is duly provided.
3. In fulfilling their responsibility, city inhabitants respect the dignity and rights of children including those of disabled children.



### Suggested Action Plan

- a) Establish a public childcare network, consisting of nursery schools and other premises, located in the various areas of the city and with universal access, to provide comprehensive care for children and youth.
- b) Establish a monitoring mechanism that enables the city to intervene in cases where people under the age of 18 are at risk, confronted by danger and violence, particularly orphans, homeless children, children victim of any form of exploitation, HIV/Aids sufferers and those displaced by war.
- c) Opening and/or strengthening of care centers for children, with healthcare, counseling and family relief services.
- d) Design and implementation of measures for the access to the city by children.
- e) Implement specific mechanisms of social protection for youth.
- f) Launch an information campaign on the international Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- g) Establish specific measures to assist disabled children.

## VI. Right to Accessible Public Services

1. All city inhabitants have the right to a socially and economically inclusive city and, to this end, to have access to nearby basic social services in acceptable technical and financial conditions.
2. The city creates, or promotes the creation of, quality and non-discriminatory public services that guarantee the following minimum to all its inhabitants: training, access to health, housing, energy, water, sanitation and sufficient food, under the terms outlined in this Charter-Agenda.

Particularly, in countries with rapid urban growth, the cities take urgent measures to improve the quality of life and opportunities of its inhabitants, especially those of lesser means as well as people with disabilities.

The city is concerned with the protection of the rights of the elderly and encourages solidarity among generations.

The city takes the necessary measures to ensure a fair distribution of public services over its entire territory, in a decentralized manner.

3. City inhabitants use social services responsibly.



## Suggested Action Plan

### Short-term

- a) Establishment of a social participation system in the design and monitoring of services delivery, especially with respect to quality, fee setting and front office operations. The participation system should focus in particular on the poorest neighborhoods and the most vulnerable groups in the city.
- b) Immediate abolition, where existing, of the legal, administrative and procedural requirements that bind the provision of basic public services to the legal status of city inhabitants.
- c) Review of local procedures and regulatory provisions, to provide low income people with greater access to basic services.
- d) Establish an equitable system of local taxes and fees that takes into account the people's incomes and their use of public services. Provide information to users on the cost of public services and the source of the funds paying for them.
- e) Careful monitoring of the needs of transients and other nomadic populations in the area of basic public services.

### Mid-term

- a) Establish efficient measures to make sure that private sector players who manage social or public interest services respect the rights guaranteed under this Charter- Agenda fully, and without discrimination. Contracts and concessions of the city shall clearly set forth its commitment to human rights.
- b) Adoption of measures to ensure that public services report to the level of government closest to the population, with the participation of city inhabitants in their management and supervision.
- c) Encourage access of the elderly to all public services and to life of the city.



## VII. Freedom of Conscience and Religion, Opinion and Information

1. a) All city inhabitants have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion: this right includes freedom to change their religion or belief, and freedom – either alone or with others and in public or private – to manifest their religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.  
b) All city inhabitants have the right to freedom of opinion and expression. This right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and deliver information and ideas through any media.

These rights may be subject only to such limitations that are necessary for the protection of public safety, order, health or morals, or for the protection of others' rights and freedoms, in the framework of national legislation.

2. The city ensures that its inhabitants have the freedom to manifest their religion or beliefs, including the right of parents to choose the type of schooling for their children.

The city ensures that everyone is able to hold opinions without interference, as well as to seek and receive information and ideas through any media, in private and in public.

The city undertakes to give its inhabitants free access to all existing sources of information and to facilitate the creation and the development of new free and pluralist sources of information.

The city encourages the creation and the development of free and pluralist media and information bodies, freely accessible to all inhabitants, without discrimination.

The city facilitates fact-finding for all journalists without discrimination and ensures that they have free access to the widest range of information, particularly concerning the city administration.

The city encourages debates and exchange of ideas and information. It ensures that all inhabitants have free access to public meeting places and facilitates the creation of such places.

3. City inhabitants have the duty and the responsibility to respect everyone else's religion, beliefs and opinions.

### Suggested Action Plan

- a) Support religious organizations in creating new places of worship and withdrawal of any obstacles through city planning to that end.
- b) Facilitate the distribution and exchange of information in view of the various faiths and beliefs of its inhabitants, without discrimination.
- c) Encourage initiatives in favor of greater tolerance and mutual understanding, among religions, beliefs and opinions.
- d) Facilitate the creation, development and accessibility of new free and pluralist sources of information, as well as the training of journalists and the organization of the public.



## VIII. Right to Peaceful Meeting, Association and to Form a Trade Union

1. a) All city inhabitants have the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, which includes the right of individuals to associate together and the right to form and join a trade union for the protection of their interests.  
b) No one may be compelled to join an association or a trade union.
2. The city ensures that its inhabitants have the right to assemble together and meet peacefully. This right may be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary for the protection of public safety, order, health or morals, or for the protection of others' rights and freedoms.  

The city ensures that its inhabitants have the right to form and join or not to join a trade union, without discrimination. It contributes to the full enjoyment of labor rights by its inhabitants.
3. City inhabitants, particularly those who employ others, respect everyone's right of peaceful assembly, association and to join a trade union, as well as the labor rights of workers.

### Suggested Action Plan

- a) Encourage and assist in the creation and the development of associations.
- b) Withdrawal of any legal or administrative obstacles to the setting up of associations and trade unions which are respectful of democratic values and human rights.
- c) Facilitate the exchange of information among associations and unions and take the necessary measures to develop meeting places to this end, including the organization of public association forums.
- d) Encourage consultation and public meetings with local associations and unions in the field of public policies.
- e) Supervise and guarantee the fulfillment of workers rights in all works and services deriving from the city.



## IX. Cultural Rights

1. All city inhabitants have the right to inclusive and ongoing quality training and education, and to enjoy culture in all its diverse expressions and forms.
2. The city stimulates creativity, supports the development and diversity of expressions and cultural practices, and sport, together with venues for the dissemination of culture and the arts, in particular, local public libraries.

The city promotes adult training and ongoing education programs.

In cooperation with cultural associations and the private sector, local authorities promote the development of a cultural urban life.

The city ensures all its inhabitants access to communication services and tools. It promotes the learning of electronic and information technologies through free public workshops.

The city respects, protects and promotes the cultural diversity of its inhabitants, the only limit being their full respect towards the rules of coexistence and universally recognized human rights. It promotes likewise the expressiveness, creativity and cultural practices of its inhabitants.

3. City inhabitants respect the city's cultural diversity and treat responsibly the public areas and facilities devoted to culture in the city.

### Suggested Action Plan

- a) Adopt supportive measures for adult education and ongoing training, including vocational training.
- b) Expansion of a public library network throughout all the city's neighborhoods.
- c) Adopt measures to conserve, protect and sustain the city's cultural heritage, and its sustainable and respectful access by city inhabitants and tourists.
- d) Plan for the creation, expansion or maintenance of quality recreational areas open to the public without discrimination.
- e) Offer IT training workshops and adopt measures to ensure universal Internet access.
- f) Careful attention to the needs of transients and other nomad populations in the field of access to education.
- g) Supportive measures for cultural creativity in the city, in order to improve the working conditions of culture professionals and to promote active cultural practices of all city inhabitants.
- h) Creation and maintenance of sport facilities.



## X. Right to Housing and Domicile

1. All city inhabitants have the right to:
  - a) Decent and sanitary housing in a living space with features of urban centrality.
  - b) Security of legal title over their home and plot of land.
  - c) Unconditional access to a registered address.
  - d) Migrants have the right to settlement areas adapted to their needs.
2. The city reconsiders its approach on land use and housing development, to adapt them to the economic, social and cultural needs of the population as a whole, particularly the most vulnerable groups.

The city takes measures to improve the regulation of the local housing market, for purposes of ensuring affordable options for the most vulnerable groups.

The city combats spatial exclusion and segregation with interventions based on social inclusion and diversity.

Furthermore, the city recognizes the right to domicile for all its inhabitants, by promoting the guarantee of their title of occupancy, in particular for the most vulnerable groups, and especially, for the inhabitants of informal dwellings.

In collaboration with other competent authorities, the city takes appropriate measures to offer decent provisional accommodation to homeless populations, as well as an adequate site for migrant populations. It allows homeless people to have a registered address at care centers, in order to ensure that they benefit from social services, particularly health services, in the city.

3. In fulfilling their responsibilities, city inhabitants use their regular home appropriately and promote neighborly relationships. Owners of multiple homes bear in mind that, together with other types of income, housing has a social function.

### Suggested Action Plan

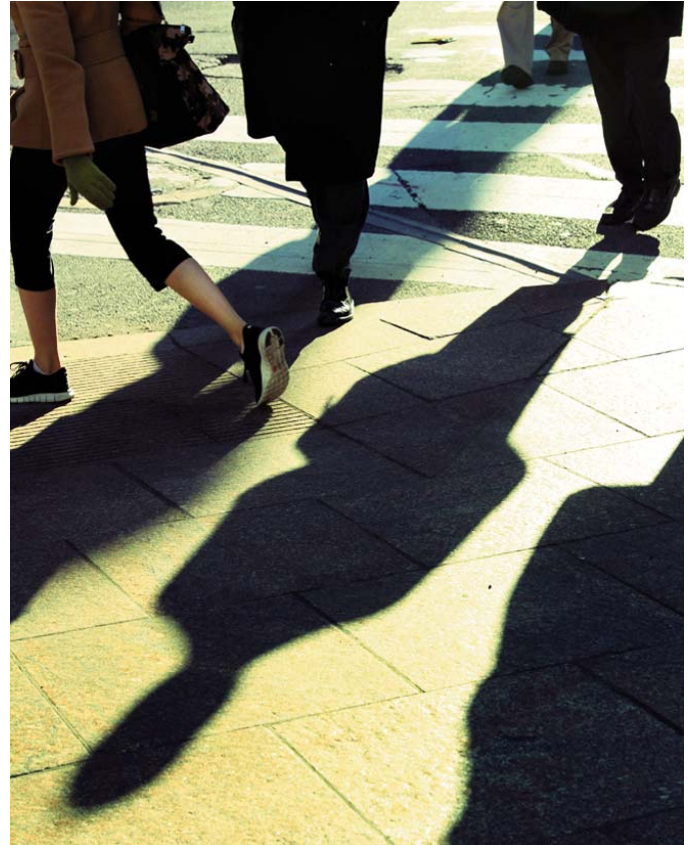
#### Short-term

- a) Assess accommodation needs as a function of the city's population profile, and create or strengthen a local service to recognize these needs.
- b) Assess the situation of informal dwellings in the city, and discuss with their occupiers to guarantee the security of their possessions and their status, and improve their living conditions.
- c) Immediate stop of evictions that do not respect legal procedures and the principles of proportionality and that do not provide fair compensation. Introduction of an alternative protection and accommodation system for evicted people.
- d) Expansion of public land by way of urban development, planning, and well-devised, area-based distribution, through citizen participation and in favor of the low-income people.
- e) Create specialized services for migrants and encourage the local authorities to work with them in the processes of negotiation and management of local policies and services related to the right to housing and domicile.
- f) Careful attention to the housing needs of transients and other nomad populations.
- g) Adoption of a public or subsidized housing construction plan, affordable for low income people, and a plan for the provision of decent shelters for the homeless.



## Mid-term

- a) Establish a procedure for land domain regularization that establishes timeframes and is non-discriminatory, especially to the most disfavored people and groups. Involve the competent government in this procedure, where applicable. In the event of governmental delay or inaction, or risk of eviction, the inhabitants of informal dwellings shall be entitled to legally demand the regularization of their housing.
- b) Enactment of the appropriate regulations to ensure full use of urban land, and of public and private property that is unused, underused or unoccupied, to fulfill the social function of housing. Legislative action on a regional or national scale will be promoted when necessary.
- c) Adoption of a local regulation that ensures the accessibility of housing for the disabled, and introduction of an inspection plan in collaboration with the groups concerned.
- d) Adaptation of local regulations to provide for the legal enforceability of the right to housing.



## XI. Right to Clean Water and Food

1. All city inhabitants have the right to drinking water, sanitation and adequate food.
2. The city guarantees all its inhabitants equal access to drinking water and sanitation services, in adequate amounts and quality.

The city guarantees a minimum level of water and food supply and prohibits cuts in the supply of water for people in precarious situations.

Where competent, the city establishes a public and participatory system of water management and may make use of the traditional and community systems. It promotes local alternatives for water collection.

The city also guarantees all its inhabitants access to sufficient healthy and nutritional food, and ensures that no one is deprived of food for lack of economic means. The city takes measures to stop hunger and tackle food shortage, even in cases of natural or other types of disasters.

3. In fulfilling their responsibilities, city inhabitants consume water in a manner that respects its natural resources, and make appropriate use of facilities and equipment.

### Suggested Action Plan

#### Short-term

- a) Adoption of local regulations, when competent to do so, that prohibit water cuts for people in precarious situations who show a very low level of water consumption.
- b) Establish tiered rates where water is almost free or charged a small amount in case of very low consumption. Rates increase in case of higher consumption, with a view to penalizing water waste.

#### Mid-term

- a) Negotiate water and energy distribution terms with private sector providers, that are adequate to guarantee the rights provided for under the Charter-Agenda.
- b) Introduce quality control to guarantee food safety.
- c) Introduce public school meals in partnership with local farmers and producers.
- d) Facilitate the creation of urban vegetable gardens and subsidized community restaurants.



## XII. Right to Sustainable Urban Development

1. a) All city inhabitants have the right to quality urban development, with a focus on social integration and with adequate and environmentally-friendly public transport.  
  
b) All city inhabitants have the right to electricity, gas and other sources of energy at home, school and in the workplace, within an ecologically sustainable city.
2. The city ensures that urban development is undertaken with a harmonious balance among all its neighborhoods, in order to prevent social segregation.

The city takes the necessary measures to achieve a healthy urban environment, and makes particular efforts to consistently improve air quality, and reduce inconveniences caused by noise and traffic.

The city is equipped with an efficient public transport system that reaches all neighborhoods in a balanced manner.

The city guarantees equal access to gas, electricity and other sources of energy, in sufficient quality and quantity, to all its inhabitants.

The city prohibits cuts in the supply of gas, electricity and other sources of energy for people in precarious situations who show low levels of consumption.

3. In fulfilling their responsibility, city inhabitants act in a manner that respects the environment and promotes energy saving and the good use of public installations, including public transportation. The inhabitants also participate in collective community efforts to promote quality urban planning and sustainable development, for the benefit of current and future generations.

### Suggested Action Plan

#### Short-term

- a) Adopt measures aimed at raising awareness among city inhabitants of their responsibility in the processes of climate change and biodiversity destruction, and at determining the ecological footprint of the city itself, to identify priority action areas.
- b) Adopt preventive measures to combat pollution and the disorganized occupation of land and environmentally protected areas, including energy saving, waste management and reutilization, recycling, expansion and conservation of green spaces.
- c) Adopt measures against corruption in urban development and against incursion in protected natural land.
- d) Adopt measures to promote collective transportation services, free or with low fares, to all the city's inhabitants and progressively introduce environmentally-friendly public transport services.
- e) Where competent, adopt regulations prohibiting cuts of electricity, gas and other sources of energy for people in a precarious situation with a very low level of consumption.

## Mid-term

- a) Approval of urban and inter-urban mobility plans based on a public transport system that is accessible, affordable and adequate for different environmental and social (gender, age and disability) needs.
- b) Installation of the necessary equipment in the mobility and traffic system, and adaptation of all buildings used by the public, work and recreational places to ensure access for the disabled.
- c) Review urban development plans to ensure that no neighborhood or community is excluded, and that they all have the elements required for an urban center. Planning shall be transparent and organized, based on priorities, with greater efforts on the most disfavored neighborhoods.
- d) Metropolitan, and potentially regional and national planning in terms of urban development, public transportation and environmental sustainability.
- e) Establish tiered rates where energy is almost free or charged a small amount in case of very low consumption. The rates increase with a higher consumption in order to penalize energy waste.
- f) Promotion of sustainable and diverse technologies for energy supply.
- g) Establish measures that contribute to the protection of biodiversity on a local scale.





## Final Provisions

### A. Adoption and enforcement mechanism of the Charter-Agenda in each city

- The Charter-Agenda shall become effective in each city after it goes through a consultation process that allows the inhabitants of the city to discuss it and adapt the terms of implementation of the action plan to local conditions and to the national legal framework and upon its acceptance by the city council. The same mechanism shall apply for any review of the local Charter-Agenda.
- The adopted Charter-Agenda will be seen locally at the highest normative level.

### B. Mechanisms of application

- The City elaborates specific indicators for the fulfillment of each of the rights as well as action plans as established in the Local Charter-Agenda.
- The City sets up the various bodies (expert groups, local observatories, independent commission on human rights or joint committee of elected representatives/civil society) necessary to ensure implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the Charter-Agenda at the local level. It may also introduce a complaint or mediation procedure.
- The City establishes a public consultation process to evaluate the implementation and effects of the Charter-Agenda on a regular basis.
- The City establishes multi-level cooperation with other competent instances (local, regional, national) in order to ensure the right to the city.

### C. Role of the city in the promotion of human rights on an international level

- The City is committed to promoting transnational local cooperation, in a general manner and in the implementation of this Charter-Agenda and to encouraging respect for human rights worldwide.
- The City endeavors to actively collaborate, within its powers, in the implementation of international mechanisms for the protection of human rights.

**This Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City has been adopted by United Cities and Local Governments (CGLU), following a wide and global participatory process, at Florence (Italy) on 11 December 2011.**



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