INCLUSION POLITICS AS STIMULATORS OF DEMOCRACY

17.   **Procedures of representative democracy become insufficient for fully incorporating citizens in the decision-making process** and stimulating their critical abilities; that is what a participative democratic process ensures. It ensures the right of the citizens to always take part in public matters, whether it is on an individual or organised level. In this sense, participation must involve an exercise of joint responsibility, which is essential to strengthen social networks and involve new actors in public action.

18.   Also, to govern under conditions of social complexity is to govern from a perspective of governance. This **requires the introduction of administrative reforms to enable the creation of a government able to develop actions of an integrated and intersecting nature**. This involves taking a holistic view of problems and responding to them through interdependent action and a network of various actors: public administration (on various governmental levels), the voluntary and community sector, and also the private sector.

19.   We must accept pluralism, conflict and diversity as factors inherent in the social processes of participation. A civic consensus emerges in areas of many previous disagreements on how to set out social challenges, for which reason permanent spaces for dialogue, debate and negotiation should be created. With regard to governance, **public participation must be part of an intersecting strategy that brings together the various municipal areas through local participation schemes**.

20.   **Public participation in policies of inclusion** (in the design, implementation and evaluation phases) **is a precondition for tangible improvement in the quality of life for people who are at risk of exclusion**, thereby ensuring the assertion of their rights. Similarly, this participation helps to improve the quality of public policies in terms of efficiency and effectiveness.

21.   **Channels of participation should be designed according to the spatial and temporal availability of people**, who should be able to combine participation in public matters with their private and working lives. The public space of political participation of today is very diverse, as reflected in the different spaces and times of daily life. This multiplicity of channels for participation in civil society, of its organizations, and community associations, together with the ability of local governments to build bridges between them, are key elements for creating new spaces for political participation.

22. The fight against situations of exclusion is a global effort that is rooted in local contexts. Therefore, it is imperative that local governments commit themselves in solidarity with each other, together with their respective civil societies. Decentralized public cooperation is an effective tool for promoting transnational solidarity in a municipal forum.