

UCLG Committee
on Social Inclusion,
Participatory Democracy
and Human Rights

Action Plan 2018

*Articulating a common voice
for UCLG local and regional
governments on social
inclusion, participatory
democracy and human rights
with a view to realize the
Right to the City*



UCLG

United Cities
and Local Governments

1. POLITICAL ADVOCACY AND REPRESENTATION

- 1.1) Promote the **Right to the City** and the **Human Rights-based approach** in global and local governments' agendas
- 1.2) Promote the Global Charter-Agenda and the European Charter for Safeguarding Human Rights in the City
- 1.3) Advocate for **the recognition of local governments' role** in the promotion and the protection of Human Rights
- 1.4) Defend the **Right to Housing** against its commodification: participation in **"The Shift"** and UCLG wave of action



- 1.5) Advocate for **migrants' Right to the City** and for a Human Rights-based global governance of migrations
- 1.6) Put **local public procurement** at the service of **global justice**: cities against tax havens
- 1.7) Promote **metropolitan areas** based on **solidarity, social justice and polycentrism**

2. STRENGTHENING THE NETWORK AND LEADERSHIP

- 2.1) Contribute to **UCLG's global strategy**
- 2.2) Collaborate with **other networks and civil society**
- 2.3) **Committee's annual meeting**
- 2.4) Launching a **youth exchange programme**

3. PRODUCTION AND DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE

- 3.1) Launching **research-action projects** on the Right to the City
- 3.2) Production and dissemination of new study cases of the **Inclusive Cities Observatory**
- 3.3) Engage new territories in the **Human Rights monitoring programme "On the Road to Rights"**
- 3.4) Disseminate **recent publications**
- 3.5) Promote **the initiatives** of Committee members
- 3.6) Co-organization of a seminar on the occasion of the **50th anniversary of "The Right to the City"** by Henri Lefebvre
- 3.7) **Communication to support** the activities of the network

4. COOPERATION AND LEARNING

- 4.1) **Cities for Human Rights and Migration Conference** (Barcelona)
- 4.2) **World Human Rights Cities Forum** (Gwangju)
- 4.3) World Forum of **Cities for Peace and Against Urban Violence** (Madrid)
- 4.4) Peer-learning exchange on Local Governments and **Right to Housing**
- 4.5) 18th IOPD Conference on **Direct Democracy**
- 4.6) Project MC2CM: **Mediterranean City-to-City Migration Project**
- 4.7) Training with the **Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights**
- 4.8) Organization of a peer-learning session on **local governments and informal workers**
- 4.9) **Online training session on the Right to the City**

Strategic axes

2018 - 2019

At the Bogotá Congress (2016), UCLG placed the **Right to the City** at the centre of its action plan as a cornerstone for a renewed “social contract” at the local level between citizens and local governments, thus **opening a new channel of action** for the messages that the Committee has been defending for more than 10 years. In the following period, the strategy of the Committee will be based on the following axes:

1. **Support and value members’ initiatives** that contribute to achieve the Right to the City and Human Rights in the city, fostering the collective generation knowledge at the service of cities and territories as common goods
2. **Defend the Right to the City and Human Rights in the city** in international fora as well as within the UCLG network, in particular regard to its Policy Councils and its waves of action on housing and migrations*.
3. **Extend and strengthen the network of cities and citizens** for the Right to the City and Human Rights through an active participation in the Global Platform for the Right to the City, in alliance with the United Nations Human Rights system and academia.

Throughout this period, the Committee will **advocate for the Right to the City and Human Rights in the city**, based on specific policies developed by its local governments constituency in cooperation with civil society, academia and the United Nations. At the global level, this effort will defend a **Right to the City-based approach in global agendas** as well as the **recognition of local governments as key actors in** the promotion and guarantee of human rights. Taking advantage of the mobilization of UCLG in certain issues, this work will **derive into more specific work areas**, such as the Right to Housing (in the framework of the Make the Shift movement), rights and migrations or local democracy.

The Committee will also be focused on **supporting and disseminating members initiatives** in the fields of inclusion, participation and rights, promoting the organization of **seminars and fora as collective moments** in which to reinforce the common narrative around the Right to the City. Peer-learning exchanges will be fostered as well. This approach will make it possible to effectively “co-create” our network, while nurturing its advocacy strategy at the global level and willingness to serve as a **space of inspiration to promote local policies at the service of the common good**.

The Committee will also put efforts in strengthening its **monitoring capacity in terms of rights** through the initiative “**On the Road to Rights**”, which evaluates the impact of local action in the light of Human Rights, as well as other calls for action-research projects such as a Right to the City laboratory, capable of linking concrete experiences with global alternatives.

* Approved in 2017, the **UCLG policy councils** “drive and develop the 2017-2019 priorities and work programme to enhance policy ownership and political participation, facilitate networking and support the sharing of expertise among UCLG members on specific themes identified as priorities of the global agenda of the World Organization”. (UCLG: Policy Councils). Know more about **UCLG waves of action** on page 7.



1. POLITICAL ADVOCACY AND REPRESENTATION

Promote **the Right to the City and the Human-Rights** based approach in global and local governments' agendas

1.1)

The Committee will promote and strengthen the Right to the City and Human Rights both at the local level as well as in regards to the implementation and follow-up of global agendas, within the framework of UCLG's action plan and in coordination with civil society organizations from the Global Platform for the Right to the City

*World Urban Forum, 7-13 February (Kuala Lumpur)
High-Level Political Forum on SDG 11, 16-18 July (New York)*

Promote the **Global Charter-Agenda and the European Charter** for Safeguarding Human Rights in the city

1.2)

The Committee will enhance its advocacy work so that these charters are considered as references for the promotion, defense and realization of Human Rights in cities and territories, promoting their adoption by new local governments



"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 (...) All provisions apply to all city inhabitants, individually and collectively, without discrimination. For purposes of this Charter Agenda, all inhabitants are citizens without any distinction"

Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City, General Provisions

Cities for Human Rights and Migrations Conference, 10-12 December (Barcelona)

Advocate for the **recognition of local governments' role** in the promotion and the protection of Human Rights

1.3)

Following up on the work begun in 2014 around the Report on the Role of Local Governments in the promotion and protection of Human Rights by the Advisory Committee of the UN Human Rights Council, the Committee will work with the Council and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) for the recognition and facilitation of the role of local governments in the defence and guarantee of Human Rights. It will be involved in the elaboration of *"UN guiding principles"* on the subject, altogether with the Korean Foundation for Human Rights, and it will collaborate with the OHCHR in the activities planned for the 70th anniversary of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

39th session of the UN Human Rights Council, September (Geneva)
 World Human Rights Cities Forum, 18-21 October (Gwangju)
 Conference of Cities for Human Rights and Migrations, 10-12 December (Barcelona)

1.4) Defend the **Right to Housing** against its commodification: participation in *“The Shift”* and **UCLG’s wave of action**

Since the Habitat III Conference, the Committee has been actively involved in the initiative “Make the Shift” of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing, Leilani Farha, on federating a global movement to addresses the phenomenon of financialization of housing and realize the housing as an essential human right, necessary condition for an adequate standard of living. The Committee will continue to articulate this movement within the framework of the UCLG Wave of Action on the Right to Housing, an effort to coordinate the global municipalist network to localize global agendas at the level of cities and regions. The Committee will co-organize different activities and will bring forward this debate within the framework of UCLG’s Political Council on the Right to the City.



“The Shift aims at building a global movement to bring together stakeholders initiatives on housing to maximise their impact. If you are a city and you want to do something related to human rights on housing, you will have an international community of like-minded people and institutions supporting you”

Leilani Farha, UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing

Meeting for the Right to Housing, 18 January (Madrid)
 Presentation of the report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing at the Human Rights Council, March (Geneva)
 Meeting on access to urban land and Right to Housing, 16-18 April (Montevideo)
 High-level Policy Forum on SDGs monitoring and SDG 11 on inclusive cities, 16-18 July (New York)
 39^o session of the Human Rights Council, September (Geneva)
 Peer-learning session on the Right to Housing in partnership with UCLG’s World Secretariat

1.5) Advocate for **migrants’ Right to the City** and for a Human Rights-based global governance of migrations

Throughout the year, the Committee will promote a Human Rights-based approach to the global governance of migrations that is respectful with the universal rights of migrants. It will also engage with worldwide local governments and associations carrying out actions to shift the narrative on migrations and to fight racism and xenophobia. The Committee will lastly defend local autonomy and democracy in this regarding, calling for the full recognition of local action in regards to migration policy.

To this end, the Committee will take advantage of UCLG’s commitment through its Wave of Action on migrations. It will thus contribute to UCLG’s advocacy work vis-à-vis the Global Compact on Migrations as well as to the second phase of the MC2CM Project.

World Urban Forum, 7-13 February (Kuala Lumpur)
World Human Rights Cities Forum, 18-21 October (Gwangju)
Social Forum on Migrations, 3-4 November 2018 (Mexico City)
Cities for Human Rights and Migrations Conference, 10-12 December (Barcelona)
Adoption of the Global Compact on Migrations, 10-11 December (Marrakech)

1.6) Put local public procurement at the service of global justice: cities against tax havens

In consultation with the UCLG World Secretariat and its European section, the CEMR, support will be given to Barcelona's initiative to carry out a campaign on the fiscal responsibility of the beneficiary companies of local public procurement. This campaign would be developed in partnership with Oxfam Intermón and the member cities of "Zones Lliures de Paradisos Fiscals" (Tax Havens-Free Zones). This campaign would be mainly focused on European cities and would target the European Union.

1.7) Promote metropolitan areas based on solidarity, social justice and polycentrism

The Committee will pursue its work on polycentric, democratic and sustainable metropolitan areas, altogether with the Forum of Local Authorities of Periphery for Solidary Metropolises (FALP). Various seminars will be proposed based on LAVUE Laboratory's Report "*Polycentric metropolises and horizons of space justice*". A working group on social inclusion and Olympic Games will also be established with a view to organize a seminar in Seine-Saint-Denis by 2019.

Forum on Social Inclusion by the CMRE, 11-13 June (Bilbao)



2. STRENGTHENING THE NETWORK AND LEADERSHIP

2.1) Contribute to UCLG's global strategy

The Committee will play an active role in the implementation of UCLG's strategy through the active participation of its members in the Policy Council on the Right to the City as well as through its involvement in the "Waves of Action" strategy on migrations and, especially, on the Right to Housing.

Whenever possible, the Committee will also contribute to UCLG's peer-learning plan and UCLG's report on local democracy and decentralization, GOLD V, contributing to monitor Sustainable Development Goal 11 on inclusive cities.



"UCLG believes in the power of networks, in the multiplier effect of synchronizing thousands of local and regional actions at global level. Across the world, local and regional governments are working to advocate for change, implement the global agendas, learn from one another, and track their progress towards the achievement of the global goals. It is UCLG's mission to showcase and multiply the impact of this work through "Waves of Action" by members and partners"

United Cities and Local Governments, Waves of Action

Collaborate with other networks and civil society

2.2)

Our joint work with other networks will be strengthened; that is the case of the International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (IOPD), the Forum of Local Authorities of Periphery (FALP), the Global Social Economy Forum (GSEF), the Educating Cities Network and UCLG's Culture Committee. In addition, our joint work with civil society organizations within the framework of the Global Platform for the Right to the City will be deepened.

.....
World Social Forum, 13-17 March (Salvador de Bahía)
International Conference of IOPD on direct democracy, 26-28 November (Barcelona)

Celebrating the Committee's annual meeting

2.3)

This meeting will take place next 12 December in Barcelona, on the occasion of its Human Rights Cities Forum. It will aim at evaluating the work carried out on the previous year, as well to approve the Committee's Strategic Plan for the coming period.



Launching a youth exchange programme between territories of the network

2.4)

Under the initiative of the Department of Seine-Saint-Denis, one of the Committee co-chairs, a proposal will be made on launching a youth exchange program between territories of the network to advance the working topics of the Committee. This initiative would be called "Co-creating the City" and would always associate an organization and a local government both in the territory of the young trainee as well in the hosting one. This program would strengthen the network through the valorisation of the work carried out in the framework of the Committee, at the same time it would unfold an activity of general and innovative interest, equally contributing to the professional insertion of young people.

3. PRODUCTION AND DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE

Launching **research-action projects** on the Right to the City

3.1)

With a view to produce and disseminate knowledge at the service of the Right to the City, and in coordination with the Research-Training working group of the Global Platform for the Right to the City, the Committee will work to launch research-action projects related to three key areas of the Right to the City: a) Urban economies; b) Democracy and rights; c) Socio-spatial justice and climate change. The Committee will study the possibility to create a Laboratory Right to the City that would strengthen the network's capacity to monitor the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in terms of the Right to the City and Human Rights and to strengthen, share and value the policies of our constituency.



- Participation in the **“Human Rights Cities Hub”** (Lund) with Raoul Wallenberg Institute and SALAR (Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions)
- Organization of seminars on the issue of **Metropolitan Areas, Right to the City and Socio-Spatial Justice** alongside LAVUE Laboratory

Production and dissemination of new study cases of the **Inclusive Cities Observatory**, source of Human Rights-based social inclusion policies

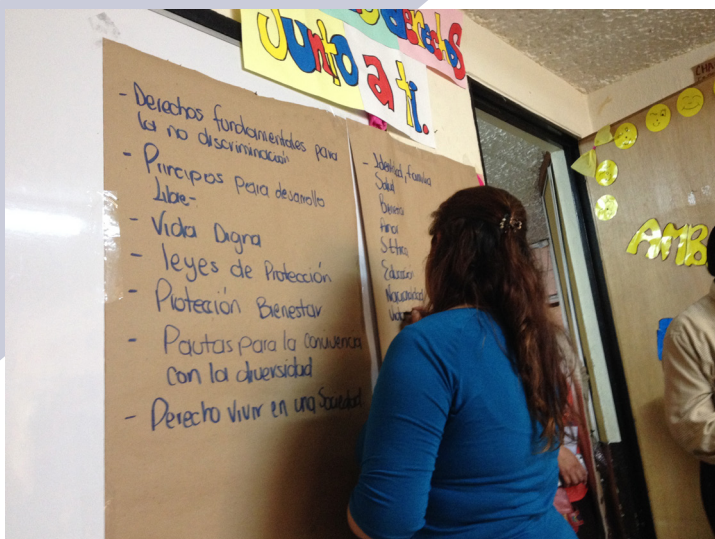
3.2)

In partnership with the Centre of Social Studies of the University of Coimbra and the Bartlett Institute of Urban Planning of the London University College, the Committee will feed the bank of case studies of the Inclusive Cities Observatory, in order to promote practices for the realization of the Right to the City. Nine new study cases on policies for the social inclusion of migrants through a Human Rights-based approach in Mediterranean cities will also be incorporated, based on the practices of the MC2CM project (*check point 4.6 for more information about MC2CM*).

Engage new territories in the **Human Rights monitoring programme “On the Road to Rights”**

3.3)

The Committee will seek to establish new collaborations with cities and territories wishing to take part in “On the Road to Rights”, a programme designed to monitor the impact of public policies in terms of realization of rights. This monitoring programme aims at assessing the situation of Human Rights in a territory through a citizen-based approach, proposing measures and priorities to improve their guarantee.



“The Human Rights Monitoring programme enables to evaluate the situation of human rights in a given territory from a participatory perspective, and to propose actions and priorities to improve the guarantee of people’s rights. The programme is open to those cities that are UCLG direct or indirect members and that are familiarized with the Global Charter-Agenda of Human Rights in the City”

UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights, Human Rights Monitoring Programme

3.4) Disseminate recent publications

The Committee will promote the latest publications such as LAVUE’s Report on Polycentric metropolises and prospects for spatial justice; the Peer-review “Social cohesion and intercultural and interreligious dialogue”; IGOP’s Report “Social Inclusion and Participatory Democracy: from the conceptual discussion to local action”

3.5) Promote the initiatives of Committee members

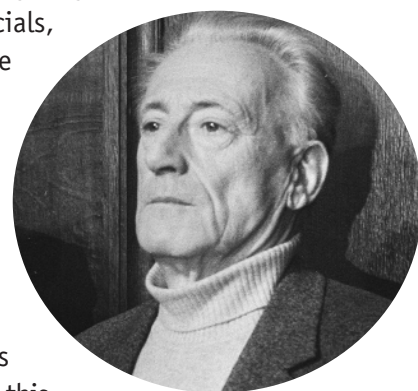
The Committee will collect, through interviews, the voices and experiences of political representatives, local technicians and civil society implementing the Right to the City in their cities and territories of origin through policies and initiatives on inclusion and participation. These interviews will reflect local commitments and actions in specific areas such as the Right to Housing, policies for the social inclusion of migrants based on Human Rights or relevant local democracy experiences.

3.6) Co-organization of a seminar on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of “The Right to the City” by Henri Lefebvre

This seminar will be organized from 3 to 5 April with Plaine Commune and the association “La Ville en Commun” in Paris and Saint-Denis. It will bring together different perspectives on the Right to the City (local elected officials, social movements, NGOs and researchers) in order to provide innovative, practice-based perspectives on the Right to the City.

3.7) Communication to support the activities of the network

The Committee will make structural improvements on its website. It will streamline its contents with the publication of weekly news about the activities of the network, initiatives of its members and other news of interest for its work areas. In this sense, the Committee will promote the results of its activity and that of its members through innovative visual contents, such as videos, slideshows and presentations. The Committee will continue to carry out an intense use of social media (Twitter, Facebook and Flickr) and to send a newsletter every two months reflecting the news and updated agenda of the network.



Henri Lefebvre

Source: Nationaal archief

4. COOPERATION AND LEARNING

Coinciding with the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Barcelona Meeting of Mayors for Human Rights and the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in 2018, the Committee will count with privileged spaces for the exchange of visions and experiences on local policies of social inclusion, participatory democracy and Human Rights. Two forums will be co-organized by the Committee

4.1) Cities for Human Rights and Migration Conference (Barcelona)

A Human Rights Cities Forum will take place in Barcelona on **10-12 december**. The Forum will have a strong emphasis on migration policies, and it will explore renewed commitments at the local level for policies that put human rights and social cohesion at the centre. A large audience is expected. A meeting between local directors on the rights approach in public policies will take place during the Forum, as well as the Committee's annual meeting.



4.2) World Human Rights Cities Forum (Gwangju)

The next edition of the World Human Rights Cities Forum will take place in the city of Gwangju **next 18-21 October**.

4.3) Peer-learning exchange on Local Governments and Right to Housing

Under the lead of Madrid's Deputy Mayor on Human Rights and Historical Memory, the Committee will also be in charge of coordinating sessions on Human Rights during the **World Forum of Cities for Peace and Against Urban Violence**, to take place in **December** in Madrid on the occasion of UCLG World Council.

4.4) 18th IOPD Conference on Direct Democracy

Furthermore, the Committee will co-organize various sessions of peer-learning exchange. It will also be engaged in various spaces of learning and education

4.5) Peer-learning exchange on Local Governments and Right to Housing

As a part of UCLG's Wave of Action on the Right to Housing, the Committee will take part in the conception and development of a peer-learning seminar on Local Governments and Right to Housing in partnership with UCLG's World Secretariat.

4.6) **Project MC2CM: Mediterranean City-to-City Migration Project**

The Committee will continue its work in the framework of the project Dialogue between Mediterranean Cities on Migration coordinated by the UCLG World Secretariat in partnership with the Institute for Migrations Policy Development (ICMPD). This project has been renovated for a second phase.



“The sustainable management of cities means that local, regional and national authorities should address the issue of inclusion of migrants as soon as they arrive, to enable an authentic hosting policy in cities, a necessary premise for the maintenance of social cohesion (...) Local authorities thus have a basic role to play, even if they often work within a limited framework of competencies marked by a restrictive decentralisation when it comes to migration.

MC2CM Project, UCLG Peer Learning *“Social cohesion and intercultural and inter-religious dialogue”*

4.7) **Training with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights**

The Committee will take part, alongside the city of Barcelona and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in the organization of a training session on international mechanisms of Human Rights protection towards local Human Rights associations.

4.8) **Organization of a peer-learning session on local governments and informal workers**

This session will be prepared in collaboration with the city of Pikine, its network of businesswomen and the International Labour Organization.

4.9) **Online training session on the Right to the City**

The possibility of organizing a second edition or an English or French edition of the online training course on the Right to the City is currently being studied. It would be organized with the Barcelona-based Observatori DESC within the framework of the Global Platform for the Right to the City.