



CONCEPT NOTE

Working session “Advancing the global movement of Human rights cities and territories”

Wednesday 23 February 2022, 11:30-13:00 (CET)

Towards UCLG Daejeon Congress: The Human Rights and Right to the City agenda in 2022

While human rights principles have gained more recognition among local governments since the pandemic, so called human rights cities are consolidating their role to guide policy innovation and collective action to fight inequalities, discriminations and build a new social contract with their inhabitants, responding to their needs and fulfilling their basic rights. Beyond the implementation of local experiences and models, human rights cities and territories aim to be a source of inspiration and solidarity for all local and regional governments to move forward fairer in the post-pandemic era and revamp the social contract.

In this context, UCLG and its Committee on Social inclusion, participatory democracy and human rights (CSIPDHR) have developed a consolidated roadmap to bring bolder human rights perspectives and to push for new collective initiatives to make local governments gaining a seat in the global human rights conversation.

Indeed, UCLG has been pioneer in acknowledging, recognizing and promoting at the international level the role of local and regional governments in the protection and defense of human rights. After the adoption of the “Global Charter Agenda on Human rights in the city” ten years ago - first document at the global level elaborated by and for local governments – UCLG signed during its last World Council a letter of agreement with the UN-OHCHR to advance further and strengthen the human right cities movements worldwide, in link with the preparation of next UN Human Rights Council’s resolution on “Local governments and human rights” to be adopted in September-October 2022. Also, UCLG “Pact for the Future” seek to be at the forefront of human rights’ next generation based on a Pact for People, Government and the Planet.





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Guiding questions:

- How to bring together local and regional governments committed with right-based agendas into a consolidated and internationally recognized movement of “human rights cities and territories”?
- What could be the potential alliances with UN, Civil Society and Research stakeholders?
- Following the achievements of the Global Charter-Agenda initiative 10 years ago, how can local governments advance further on the recognition of a global framework for Human rights cities and territories worldwide?

First round of discussion: International campaign “10, 100, 1000 human rights cities and territories by 2030”

As public service providers and closest level of governance to the people, local and regional governments have a common responsibility to ensure the fulfillment of human rights and that all citizens can enjoy their city equally. In embracing transformative narratives and long-term goals, local and regional governments can become guardians of human rights and the new voice of human rights dignity in their territories. Local and regional governments from all the world are acting and taking initiatives to protect the most vulnerable groups, guarantee the access to basic services (water, sanitation, power), ensure equal rights for women and men, create the conditions for sustainable development and access to adequate housing, fight discriminations and inequalities...

The campaign aims to launch a global Human Rights cities movement explicitly committed to translate human rights principles at the local level. Starting from 10 first cities and territories, the ambition is to gather 100 local and regional governments towards UCLG Daejeon Congress and 1000 for the realization of the Agenda 2030.

11:30-11:45 **Presentation of the campaign**

Hans Sackers, City of Utrecht
Elsa Touré, City of Grigny

11:45-11:55 **Open questions, comments and proposals**

11:55-12:05 **Insight views from the partners**

Morten Kjaerum, Raoul Wallenberg Institute
Bahram Ghazi (tbc), OHCHR





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12:05-12:15 **Open questions, comments and proposals**

Moderation: Amanda Flety - UCLG CISDP

Second round of discussion: 10 years of UCLG's Global Charter Agenda on human rights in the city

UCLG and its Committee on Human Rights launched a revision process of the Global Charter Agenda on Human Rights in the city through the online platform UCLG Meets (two questionnaires and open contributions). The purpose is to understand how local and regional governments can connect with human rights and explore pathways to support local and regional governments to engage with local processes for the effective promotion and implementation of human rights. Ten years after the first Global Charter Agenda, how to assess the latest advances and developments of the human rights cities movement from the different regions of the world and settle the basis of a global discussion on the next step of a common framework of commitment?

12:15-12:20 **Introduction to the process and first outcomes**

Amanda Flety, UCLG CISDP

12:20-12:30 **Empowering the Human Rights Cities towards UCLG Daejeon Congress**

Shams Asadi - City of Vienna
Mariana Flores- City of Mexico

12:30-12:55 **Open discussion**

12:55-13:00 **Conclusions of the session**

Emilia Saiz, Secretary General of UCLG