



Minutes of the First Biannual Meeting of the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion and Participative Democracy (CSIPD)

Date: 17 March 2007

Time: 9 am – 1 pm

Venue: Salle du Conseil – Saint-Denis (France)

The extraordinary meeting of the CSIPD was co-ordinated by the Chair of the CSIPD, the Mayor of Guarulhos.

The Deputy Chair of the CSIPD, a Councillor for Saint-Denis, opened the meeting by welcoming participants and by making reference to the work of the CSIPD and its relationship with the FLA.

The meeting began with a review of the agenda and a series of introductions by the 26 people present.

1. The technical executive secretary gave a brief report on the changes that have occurred to the CSIPD's work plan leading up to the Congress in Jeju. The main changes are: the inclusion of the link between the CSIPD and the IOPD, changes in the leadership of the CSIPD, the incorporation of Barcelona City Council as the technical executive secretariat, and the holding of an international seminar on good social inclusion policies in Barcelona. Members were advised that the programme of activities has been planned up to Jeju and that a work plan for 2008-2010 must be drawn up for presentation to the congress.
2. The Chair gave a brief report on the goals of the meeting and of the Executive Bureau meeting held in Paris on 15 and 16 March 2007. He and the technical secretary singled out the following:
 - a. UCLG World Congress in Jeju, to be entitled *"Changing Cities are Driving Our World"*. A report on the structure of the four days was given:
 - 28 October: committee meetings.
 - 29 October: statutory and opening meetings.
 - 30 October: plenary and parallel sessions.
 - 31 October: plenary, parallel sessions and the Mayors Summit – General Assembly.

Mention was made of the three plenary sessions at the congress, which will deal with the three core themes:

- Cities, the future of humanity: addressing climate change.

- Local governments as peacemakers.
- 2015: a fairer world is possible. Towards a new model of global governance.

At the meeting of committee secretaries, the technical secretary of the CSIPD asked if she could be involved in organising two activities: one on social inclusion and the MDGs, together with the MDG committee and other committees; and a parallel session on local democracy and participative democracy together with the IOPD. The technical secretary mentioned that the deadline for committees to present a specific proposal on activities to the Jeju co-ordinators is **17 April**.

- United Nations Working Group: the chair highlighted the need to establish a closer relationship between the UCLG and the UN by forging links with its agencies. This meeting was important as a means to strengthen the UCLG's role as a representative for cities before international bodies.
- Committees and working groups: mention was made of the criteria to be worked on by committees in order to ensure that the requisites to evaluate the work done are complied with. The technical secretary read out the basic criteria:
 - They should be supported in writing by members from three different sections.
 - They should seek to incorporate members that are cities or associations of cities.
 - They should be connected with UCLG's work plan.
 - They should pursue an active initiative in the Jeju Congress.
 - They should demonstrate an ability to link up with other committees and working groups.
 - They should put forward a work plan that includes a timetable and identifiable indicators so that they can be monitored, and they should also have financial resources.

The chair highlighted the need to bring on board more members from other regions, such as Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

The committees are expected to present their new chairs and deputy chairs in Jeju. Consequently, it was recommended that the issue of the new chairs and deputies should be discussed at the next meeting of the CSIPD in Florianopolis on **26 July 2007**, during the FLACMA Congress to be held from 25 to 27 July 2007, and that the 2008-2010 work plan to be presented in Jeju should also be approved at the same meeting.

The floor was then opened up for general discussion before moving on to the working groups' reports.

The key points raised in the debate were:

- The concern over the number of representatives on the CSIPD and the need to expand.
- Meetings of the CSIPD should be held before and not after the statutory meetings of the UCLG.
- Support for the links being forged between the CSIPD and the IOPD. This synergy is important as a means of strengthening the CSIPD.
- The role of the CSIPD is essential within the organisation as it works on the issue of proximity democracy.

- There was a discussion regarding the evolution of the UCLG and debate on the kind of world organisation we need. The issue of global governance – be it economic, political or related to citizens – is important. The FLA and the CSIPD can both make a significant contribution in this regard. The CSIPD needs to channel the political debate on global governance within the UCLG.
- The need for more members from Africa led to a consideration of financial matters. An effort was made in this respect through Africités and Nairobi. The issue of debt cancellation for poor countries is key to this process.
- There was discussion on the theme of the participation of the regions in the UCLG and of the creation of a network of regions. The secretary pointed out that this issue was discussed by the Executive Bureau and is being pushed forwards within the organisation's statutory bodies.
- It was suggested that a proposal on the issue of greater democracy within the dynamic of the organisation should be drawn up and presented to the UCLG.
- The need for working groups to continue their activity, the need for an enlargement of these working groups, and an evaluation of those members who are part of the leadership of the CSIPD but who have never participated in its meetings or other work.
- To show that the FLA gives impetus to the CSIPD and to raise the visibility of the work conducted by the network within the CSIPD during this time period.
- Important points for the CSIPD: the URB-AL network on social inclusion being co-ordinated by Montevideo and the work we are doing with social movements and organised civil society; the institutional issue and the issue of the participation of civil society need to be linked; and the mobilisations called by the WSF in 2008 need to be borne in mind.
- The CSIPD needs to increase its operational capacity and to be more specific about what it wants to see happen. The CSIPD needs to draw up a programme of work for 2008 and 2010 and its political reflections to take to Jeju.
- To highlight the specific political dimension arising from the link with the FLA. To produce a report on the work done thus far and to make the structure of the UCLG more flexible.
- A proposal to set up a working group on decentralised co-operation within the CSIPD, which should be decided on at the forthcoming meeting in Florianopolis.
- The incorporation of women and their rights in social inclusion policies and in steering committees and similar bodies to be encouraged.
- The link between the CSIPD and the IOPD is to be developed. Presentation of the materials produced by the IOPD, the LOPDs and the working groups formed.

Following this discussion, advance news was provided on some of the activities members are pursuing. It was proposed that these should be included in the CSIPD calendar:

- Malaga 28, 29, 30 and 31 March 2007. International Seminar on Participative Budgets.
- Barcelona: International Seminar on Good Social Inclusion Policies. Barcelona, the week of 17 September 2007.

- Province of Milan: mentioned that it is aiming to hold a seminar on the theme of global citizenship in late September or early October 2007.
- IOPD and Nanterre: Seventh Conference of the IOPD. From 26 to 29 November 2007 in Nanterre (France).
- Cités Unies France: Forum of European Union and Latin American Local Authorities on Social Cohesion. 29 and 30 November 2007 in Paris (France).
- Porto Alegre has requested the support of the CSIPD in handling the organisation and attendance at the World Conference on City Development: democratic innovation and social transformation in cities in the 21st century. This conference is being organised in conjunction with Montreal City Council, UNESCO, UN-HABITAT and the Brazilian Ministry of Cities. From 13 to 17 February 2008 in Porto Alegre (Brazil).

The CSIPD expressed its support for these initiatives and confirmed that it would actively participate and that it would include these events in the CSIPD programme of activities.

The cities responsible for advancing the working groups were then given the opportunity to make their reports:

- a. Social Inclusion. The city of Barcelona, representing the group consisting of Guarulhos, Seine-Saint-Denis and Santa Coloma de Gramanet, gave a report on the progress being made on the Seminar on Good Social Inclusion Policies and detailed its intention to take a publication on selected cases and a political positioning text to Jeju.
- b. Global Citizenship. The Diputació de Barcelona, representing the group consisting of the Province of Milan, Cités Unies France and Managua, has drawn up a report on its programme of work and intends to take to Jeju an initial document that the experts must present as part of the establishment of a core text for the World Charter-Agenda of Human Rights in the City.
- c. Participative Democracy. The city of Cordoba, speaking on behalf of the group consisting of Montevideo and Belo Horizonte, referred to the work already done by members and reported that the group intends to take the material published during this period to Jeju. In addition, the IOPD will be able to contribute the material that emerges from its studies, such as the reports of the LOPDs, the participation guides and all the issues worked on by the IOPD working groups.

With regard to drawing up the work plan for 2008-2010, the technical secretary reminded members and working groups that they must forward the following to the secretariat by **2 June 2007**:

- Events and meetings to be included in the CSIPD work plan for 2008-2010.
- Proposals on contents to continue the working groups in 2008-2010: goals for the second period, website, published material, indicators, diary and calendar (the guidance document worked on in 2006 to be taken into account).
- Draft of the group set up in Saint-Denis, consisting of Guarulhos, Barcelona and the group of French local authorities (Saint-Denis, Nanterre, Seine-Saint-Denis, Aubagne and Plaine Commune), on drawing up a proposal on the issue of making the dynamic of the organisation more democratic. This initial draft, together with the 2008-2010 work plan, should be approved and discussed at Florianopolis.

Lastly, mention was made of the calendar of CSIPD events and meetings that members need to bear in mind:

- Fourth Meeting of the CSIPD in Florianopolis – **26 July 2007**, as part of the FLACMA Congress, to be held between 25 and 27 July 2007.
- UCLG World Congress in Jeju (South Korea) – **28 to 31 October 2007**.

Vanessa Marx
Technical-Executive Secretary
CSIPD

List of those present at the Extraordinary Meeting of the CSIPD in Saint-Denis 17 March 2007

1. Greater London Authority (United Kingdom)
2. Province of Milan (Italy)
3. Diputació de Barcelona (Spain)
4. Barcelona City Council (Spain)
5. Porto Alegre City Council (Brazil)
6. Conseil général du Val-de-Marne (France)
7. Région Rhône-Alpes (France)
8. Córdoba City Council (Spain)
9. Andalusian Municipalities Fund for International Solidarity (Spain)
10. Nanterre City Council (France)
11. Conseil général de la Seine-Saint-Denis (France)
12. Aubagne City Council (France)
13. Saint-Denis City Council (France)
14. Diputación Provincial de Málaga (Spain)
15. El Bosque City Council and LOPD (Chile)
16. Ville de Bobigny (France)
17. San Sebastián City Council (Spain)
18. Cités Unies France (CUF)
19. Guarulhos City Council and National Front of Mayors (Brazil)
20. International Observatory of Participative Democracy (IOPD)
21. Technical Executive Secretariat of the CSIPD