



Report from the Committee on Social Inclusion and Participatory Democracy (CSIPD)

This report describes the development to date of the Committee on Social Inclusion and Participatory Democracy (CSIPD).

1. Background

In response to a proposal by the city of Porto Alegre and a number of other cities and international organizations, representatives of Latin American, European, African and Middle Eastern cities met in Porto Alegre in January 2001 to constitute the Forum of Local Authorities for Social Inclusion (FLA). The meeting was held within the framework of the World Social Forum, whose objective was to study an alternative to globalization. The goal of the FLA was to encourage the creation of a concept of local governance based on acknowledgement of the cultural, political and economic diversity of the different regions in the world, and thereby orient public policy towards social inclusion in towns and cities.

The Committee on Social Inclusion and Participatory Democracy (CSIPD) of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) was created by the FLA Network during the UCLG meeting in Beijing in 2005. The Frente Nacional de Prefeitos of Brazil assumed the role of President, and the cities of Saint-Denis and Montevideo assumed those of joint Vice-Presidents. Barcelona assumed responsibility for the Technical Secretariat in October 2006.

During its three years' existence, the CSIPD has met in Beijing (China – Asia), Nanterre (France - Europe), Marrakech (Morocco - Africa), Saint-Denis (France - Europe) and Florianópolis (Brazil - Latin America). These meetings were held during UCLG World Council meetings and in cities hosting events, seminars and thematic workshops on social inclusion.

The CSIPD currently has more than sixty member towns and cities in Asia, Latin America, Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

In the past three years, the CSIPD has contributed to FLA meetings in Caracas and Nairobi and has been instrumental in cities' adhesion to the UCLG Millennium Towns and Cities Campaign. It has also created three Working Groups on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Global citizenship, and has drawn up texts on political orientation, objectives, work schedules and action programme.

2. Objectives

One of the CSIPD's objectives is to encourage the exchange of experiences on policies of social inclusion and participatory democracy, in coordination with organized civil society.

The CSIPD will also cooperate with other UCLG committees and working groups to agree upon points of general interest for the organization and their content from an integrated, crosscutting perspective.

The key issues to be discussed are as follows:

- Social Inclusion
- Participatory Democracy
- Global Citizenship: human rights and immigration

These issues are to be included in the CSIPD work plan so that policies on social inclusion, participatory democracy and global citizenship (human rights and immigration) can be exchanged between local governments. This involves:

- Making a diagnosis of cities' innovative experience in the area of social inclusion: reaching deeper measures of democracy at the local level and drawing up policies in coordination with organized civil society, NGOs and social movements to encourage the promotion of integrated multisectoral policies.
- Analysing and systematizing these experiences and building a database by means of which to obtain guidelines for promoting local policies of social inclusion.
- Preparing indicators to measure the impact of social exclusion on towns and cities, and working in accordance with good-governance principles and indicators to obtain a broader conceptual framework.
- Enhancing dialogue with State governments to boost public policies for all and make them the focal point around which social inclusion is structured.
- Coordinating with the FLA Network and the International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (IOPD) in areas of knowledge transfer and exchange.

3. Results Achieved

- The concept of social inclusion has been discussed and defined with the towns and cities belonging to the CSIPD; definitions of participatory democracy and global citizenship have also been made, with emphasis on human rights.
- The UCLG's participation, through the CSIPD, has been promoted at the World Social Forums in Caracas and Nairobi. Civil society may be considered a new player on the world scene, and it is important to work together with these players to promote social inclusion, encourage new public policies and achieve deeper understanding of the democratic system. A strategic alliance between civil society and local governments is fundamental if the CSIPD's work is to progress.

- The creation of a CSIPD database has begun: data sheets for registering experiences have been prepared and sent out to member towns and cities.
- The action of the CSIPD's three Working Groups has been coordinated. They need to be made as dynamic as possible so that they can produce the documents and results needed to back the CSIPD and UCLG.
- The CSIPD working groups, projects and players have been organized following UCLG dynamics, its work plan and strategic projects.
- More than sixty UCLG members have joined the CSIPD since 2005.

4. Actions Taken in 2007

- A conceptual framework of references for towns and cities was created on the subject of public policy on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Global Citizenship.
- A document on innovative social-inclusion policies was published, and an exchange of experiences was implemented.
- The database on social-inclusion experiences was consolidated.
- An International Seminar on Innovative Local Policies for Social Inclusion was organized and gave rise to a CSIPD document.
- The CSIPD's presence at the UCLG World Congress in Jeju was organized and prepared.

5. Activities Carried Out (2005-2007)

June 2005

1st CSIPD Meeting

8-10 June 2005: 1st CSIPD Meeting in Beijing (China) and ratification of the work plan by the UCLG Executive Bureau.

July-September 2005

Contribution to the UCLG Millennium Towns and Cities Campaign

The UCLG Millennium Towns and Cities Campaign was backed and disseminated through the FLA Network and CSIPD members.

January 2006

6th FLA in Caracas

Preparation of the Forum of Local Authorities for Social Inclusion, which was held in Caracas on 23-24 January 2006. The 6th FLA contributed to the development of the CSIPD as follows:

- The FLA presented the documents prepared by the Working Groups on Social Inclusion and Participatory Democracy (www.FAL-caracas2006.org), thereby providing added content for discussion by the CSIPD.
- A specific meeting was organized to promote the UCLG and CSIPD among the towns and cities attending the FLA.
- Information was exchanged among towns and cities about other committees and working groups of the UCLG world organization.

- A meeting was held with the City Council of Montevideo, during which the city accepted the second CSIPD Vice-Presidency. This was ratified at the UCLG Executive Bureau meeting in Washington, D.C.

March 2006

2nd CSIPD Meeting

The 2nd CSIPD Meeting was held within the context of the World Forum for Peripheral Local Authorities (FPLA) in Nanterre (France). This meeting was instrumental in the creation of the three Working Groups on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Global Citizenship. Some member towns and cities undertook to contribute to the dynamics of these three groups.

June 2006

World Urban Forum (WUF)

In Vancouver, the CSIPD backed the initiative on urban policies for social inclusion and co-organized a seminar on the Participatory Budget.

The main subjects were:

- Social Inclusion and Cohesion: a) Public Engagement: The Inclusion Approach and b) Achieving the MDGs: Slum Upgrading and Affordable Housing.
- Partnership and Finance: Primarily, Municipal Finance: Innovation and Collaboration.
- Urban Growth and the Environment: Particularly, The Shape of Cities: Urban Planning and Management.

September 2006

Africities

A seminar was co-organized at the Africities Summit in collaboration with AITEC and a number of French towns and cities to prepare the 7th FLA in Nairobi (Kenya). The subjects of social inclusion, public services and diversity on the African continent were discussed at the seminar.

November 2006

3rd CSIPD Meeting

The 3rd CSIPD Meeting was held during the UCLG World Council meeting in Marrakech (Morocco). The cities presented three work plans on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Global Citizenship.

- Social Inclusion: The Eradication of Poverty and Hunger. Discussion on the subject included the issue of social inclusion in relation to the CSIPD's work and the achievement of Millennium Development Goal No. 1.
- Participatory Democracy: Participatory Budgets and Other Tools for Citizen Participation. It was proposed that the CSIPD should participate in the work of the Global Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralization (GOLD) in the area of local participatory democracy. It was stressed that the IOPD should also participate actively in this group.
- Global Citizenship: Immigration Policies and Human Rights: Development of the Global Charter-Agenda of Human Rights in the City.

January 2007

7th Forum of Local Authorities for Social Inclusion (FLA)

The 7th FLA was held in Nairobi, Kenya.

The FLA and the CSIPD recommended that the UCLG should participate in 13 activities involving social movements, especially the following:

- What Sort of Decentralization is Required for Public Governance of Local Development? With the participation of the Secretary General of UCLG Africa.
- Decentralized Cooperation and the Millennium Goals. With the participation of the Secretary General of UCLG Africa and the UCLG Committee on the MDGs.
- Local Authorities and Social Movements: Forms of Conquering Rights by Metropolises Committed to Solidarity. With the participation of the Secretary General of UCLG Africa and the UCLG Working Group on Peripheral Cities.
- Diversity, Democracy and Public Space: Relations and Challenges Between Cities and States. Towards New Geopolitics of Solidarity. With the participation of the CSIPD President.
- Towards a Global Movement for the Reform of International Institutions. With the participation of the CSIPD President.

March 2007

UCLG Executive Bureau Meeting in Paris

- Participation in the meeting of UCLG Committee Secretariats.
- Participation in the meeting on the World Congress in Jeju.
- Counselling of the CSIPD President, Vice-Presidents and Technical Secretariat at the UCLG Executive Bureau Meeting.

Extraordinary Meeting of the CSIPD in Saint-Denis

- Discussion between the three Working Groups on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Global Citizenship, and preparation of work to be carried out for the Jeju World Congress.
- Report on the UCLG Executive Bureau meeting, mainly with respect to committees, renewal of mandate and the UCLG World Congress.
- Discussion about the CSIPD calendar and events.
- Ratification of the plan to hold the 4th CSIPD Meeting in Florianópolis (Brazil).

April 2007

New members informed about the CSIPD by Barcelona City Council

- Letters were sent to the towns and cities to inform them about the CSIPD and the Technical-Executive Secretariat.
- Follow-up on letters and the new towns and cities joining the CSIPD.

April/May/June/July 2007

Preparation of the International Seminar on Innovative Local Policies for Social Inclusion to be held in Barcelona

- Negotiations were held with the Generalitat de Catalunya (Catalan Government) on the question of resources for the seminar, and an agreement was reached with Barcelona City Council.
- A meeting was held with the Development Planning Unit (DPU) of the University College of London (UCL) to study a collaboration agreement for

work on the data-selection process, creation of a database and the seminar to be held in Barcelona.

- *Circular 9* was prepared with the data sheets of experiences sent to all CSIPD member towns and cities.

May 2007

Participation in the meeting of the World Social Forum International Council in Berlin

- Participation in the seminar held to evaluate the World Social Forum in Nairobi.
- Participation, together with the FLA Northern Section, in International Council meetings.

June 2007

Basic CSIPD Text on Social Inclusion Discussed via the FLACMA E-Forum

In preparation for the CSIPD Meeting in Florianópolis, the basic text of the CSIPD Working Group on Social Inclusion was presented and discussed on the e-forum administered by the Latin American Federation of Cities, Municipalities and Associations (FLACMA) in June 2007.

July 2007

4th CSIPD Meeting in Florianópolis (Brazil) Within the Framework of the 3rd FLACMA Congress. The work involved:

- Convening the meeting.
- Preparing the documentation.
- Confirming attendance.
- Drafting the Minutes of the 4th CSIPD Meeting.

September 2007

1st International Seminar on Innovative Local Policies for Social Inclusion held in Barcelona. The work involved:

- Publishing material narrating 15 innovative experiences in terms of social inclusion.
- Drafting a text to orient policies, based on the results of the seminar and the narratives.
- Structuring the seminar.

October 2007

UCLG World Congress in Jeju. The work involved:

- Preparing the session on Local Democracy, Participatory Democracy: Key to Social Inclusion.
- Preparing, together with Barcelona Provincial Council, the AGORA activity on the Global Charter-Agenda on Human Rights in the City.

6. Future Action

- Creation of the CSIPD website.
- Completion of a database of innovative social-inclusion experiences.
- Publication of a document with the 15 experiences of innovative social inclusion presented at the Barcelona seminar in September 2007.
- Submit the document on the political perspectives of social inclusion and participatory democracy for local government to the UCLG World Council and Executive Bureau.
- UCLG participation in formulating and launching the Inclusive Cities Award together with UNESCO, UN-Habitat and Porto Alegre.

7. CSIPD Presidency 2008-2010

Co-Presidents: Barcelona (Spain) and Frente Nacional de Prefeitos (Brazil)

Vice-President: Saint-Denis (France)

Vice-President: Province of Milan (Italy)

Vice-President: Ecatepec (Mexico)

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