

## **WORKING PLAN 2008 – 2010**

### **COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATIVE DEMOCRACY**

#### **UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

#### **1. Mission and background**

The mission of the Committee on Social Inclusion and Participative Democracy (CSIPD) of the worldwide organisation “United Cities and Local Governments” (UCLG) is to study the following emerging urban issues in depth: (i) the institutional response by local authorities to urban poverty and exclusion through the design of local social inclusion policies; (ii) the strengthening of democratic quality by means of policies promoting citizen participation; and (iii) the role of local authorities as guarantors of human rights in the city.

The origin of the CSIPD is to be found in the Forum of Local Authorities (FLA), a space for reflection and political discussion among local authorities the world over which has been held simultaneously with the World Social Forum since 2001. Among the objectives of the FLA Network is to build and develop, alongside civil society, public management alternatives that foster social inclusion and participatory democracy<sup>1</sup>. The FLA promoted the creation of the CSIPD in 2005 within the framework of the UCLG Executive Bureau meeting, held in Beijing.

Throughout the first working period (2005–2007), the CSIPD promoted participation of the UCLG in the World Social Forums held in Caracas (Venezuela, 2006) and Nairobi (Kenya, 2007); it contributed to the organisation of the last two editions of the FLA (Caracas and Nairobi); has created and promoted three working groups (Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy, and Global Citizenship – human rights and immigration) which generated debate and the conceptual definition of these central themes; and, finally, the CSIPD organised the “1st International Seminar on Innovative Local Policies for Social Inclusion” (Barcelona, 2007), as a result of which a policy position document was drawn up on the subject of social inclusion which will be discussed at UCLG Executive Bureau meetings throughout 2008.

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

#### **2. Working Plan 2008 – 2010**

During the 2nd UCLG World Congress held in Jeju (South Korea) from 28 to 31 October 2007, the CSIPD proudly presented the results of work carried out from 2005 to 2007. For the present mandate (2008 – 2010), the CSIPD has defined the following Working Plan, made up of 6 strategic objectives and 27 action undertakings.

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<sup>1</sup> For further information about the FLA Network, visit the website [www.redfal.org](http://www.redfal.org)

**a) Promote the creation and exchange of innovative policies of social inclusion and strengthen the definition of concepts, policies and practices in the area of social inclusion**

- ✓ Enlarge the database of social inclusion policies by means of collecting and systemising inclusion policies that seek to broaden citizen participation, drawing up agreed policies with organised civil society and fostering multisectoral policies. This database currently contains a total of 54 documented policies.
- ✓ Carry out an assessment of the collected policies with the aim of extracting lines to promote social inclusion policies in the local area. Draw up indicators of social exclusion and inclusion. Design and organise a social inclusion observatory in cities.
- ✓ Disseminate the results of the “1st International Seminar on Innovative Local Policies for Social Inclusion” (Barcelona, 27-28 September, 2007) through, (i) publication of a cross-policy analysis of the 15 policies presented and discussed in the Seminar; and (ii) presentation and discussion within the framework of the UCLG of the policy position text in the area of social inclusion that resulted from the Seminar debates. The document is intended to position the UCLG regarding how to define and approach inclusion policies in the framework of the organisation, and should serve as the basis of exchanges between the UCLG and other international organisations and/or agencies.
- ✓ Contribute to the organisation of the 6th International Conference of the AERYC (American-European Association of Regions and Cities) on “Social Cohesion and Democratic Governance: Towards More Inclusive Cities and Regions” (Barcelona, 28-29 November, 2008).
- ✓ Organise the “1st International Congress on Innovative Policies for Social Inclusion” (Barcelona, 2010).

**b) Encourage the creation and exchange of innovative policies relating to participatory democracy and strengthen the definition of concepts, policies and practices in the area of participatory democracy**

- ✓ Define a policy position document on participatory democracy.
- ✓ Define a policy proposal on participative democracy and put it on the agendas of local governments and associations, State legislation frameworks and multilateral bodies. Analyse the state of incorporation of the proposal in local policy agendas.
- ✓ Coordinate the CSIPD’s work with that of the International Observatory of Participatory Democracy (IOPD). Actively participate in the organisation of the 8th Annual Conference of the IOPD “Interculturalism and Citizen Participation” (La Paz, 19-21 November, 2008).
- ✓ Disseminate the results of work, especially within organised civil society.

**c) Encourage the engagement of local governments towards Human Rights and draft a “Worldwide Charter-Agenda of Human Rights in the City”**

- ✓ Draw up a text with a worldwide, multicultural perspective that includes a list of 8 - 10 fundamental human rights that all cities should recognise, protect and implement.
- ✓ Draw up an “agenda” or municipal action programme for each human right recognised in the Charter-Agenda, defining the municipal undertakings necessary to implement the Charter of Human Rights. Define a working calendar for the “agenda” or municipal action programme and design indicators that will enable evaluation of the degree of success achieved in the implementation of the Charter-Agenda.

- ✓ Involve a large number and variety of actors in the process of consideration and preparation of the Charter-Agenda (local authorities, social movements, international organisations, civil society and experts the world over) via an online web exchange platform that legitimises the result of the project.
- ✓ Obtain a real and effective political commitment from the local authorities involved. Disseminate the Charter-Agenda on a global scale and implement it on a local scale by means of the adoption of city by-laws and the design of inclusive local policies.
- ✓ Participate in the organisation of the 6<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Human Rights in the City (Geneva, 8 – 9 December 2008) and stimulate the dissemination and implementation of the “European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City”.

**d) Define a communication strategy for the CSIPD**

- ✓ Create and implement a website for the CSIPD. Manage and update its contents. Actively promote the online debate forum.
- ✓ Draw up monthly news bulletins that foster dissemination of the work of the CSIPD.
- ✓ Create dissemination material (leaflets, dossiers, etc.).
- ✓ Coordinate the publications resulting from the CSIPD’s work.

**e) Coordinate the work of the CSIPD with UCLG policies**

- ✓ Contribute towards implementation of the UCLG Working Plan, especially those objectives related with the CSIPD’s central themes. Work for social inclusion to be the main topic at the UCLG World Council (Istanbul, 2008) and at the 2nd UCLG World Council (Chile, 2010).
- ✓ Disseminate the CSIPD’s work throughout the UCLG.
- ✓ Coordinate the CSIPD’s work with the regional sections of the UCLG and other committees and/or working groups, especially the Peripheral Cities Committee, the Decentralised Cooperation Committee and the Millennium Development Goals Committee.

**f) Structure the CSIPD’s work within that of other international networks and organisations**

- ✓ FLA Network: Contribute to the organisation of subject-specific seminars and provide technical assistance for the organisation of the Forums of Local Authorities.
- ✓ IOPD: Form part of the Jury of the 3rd Distinction for “Best Practices in Citizen Participation”. Participate actively in the organisation of the 8th Annual Conference of the IOPD (La Paz, 19-21 November, 2008). Promote the exchange of information and notify CSIPD members of IOPD activities. Draw up other collaboration agreements.
- ✓ UN-Habitat and UNESCO: Establish lines of collaboration with these agencies within the framework of an agreement entered into with the UCLG. Participate actively in the 4th World Urban Forum (Nanjing, 3-7 November, 2008).
- ✓ URB-AL: Collaborate with the implementation of URB-AL projects that contribute to promoting social inclusion, participative democracy and/or human rights in the city

- ✓ Foster coordination of the CSIPD with other international networks and organisations with similar aims to those of the Committee. Promote CSIPD contacts with universities specialising in the Committee's central themes.

### **3. Organisation and operation**

#### **3.1. Composition**

The CSIPD is made up of:

- Local authorities (elected on an individual basis or associations of local authorities)
- Collaborators (institutions, organisations and experts)

Committee members have access to CSIPD data, information and documentation. Membership in the CSIPD is free and should be formalised via the UCLG World Secretariat.

The government structure of the CSIPD will ensure the proper geographical representation of Committee members and will promote membership of the UCLG by those members who only form part of the CSIPD.

As at the date of March 2008, the CSIPD comprises more than sixty local authorities from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East<sup>2</sup>.

#### **3.2. Government structure**

##### Presidency

- Barcelona (Spain)
- Guarulhos (Brazil)

##### Vice-Presidencies

- Saint Denis (France)
- Provincia de Milano (Italy)
- Ecatepec de Morelos (Mexico)

##### Working Groups

- Social Inclusion (Barcelona)
- Participatory Democracy (Ecatepec de Morelos)
- Human Rights and Local Governments (Nantes – Pays de la Loire)

##### Technical-Executive Secretary

- Barcelona (Spain)

##### Plenary of the Committee

The Coordination Committee comprises the cities that hold the Presidency, the Vice-Presidencies and those chairing the Working Groups.

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<sup>2</sup> See the list of members in the attached document.

### **3.3. Functions**

#### **Plenary of the Committee:**

- ✓ Define the policies of the CSIPD.
- ✓ Promote and disseminate the mission of the CSIPD.
- ✓ Propose and implement the Working Plan.
- ✓ Participate in activities organised by the CSIPD.
- ✓ Support the Executive Technical Secretariat in the general performance of its tasks.

#### **Presidency and Vice-Presidencies:**

Perform the general tasks of the members and the following specific tasks:

- ✓ Represent the policies of the CSIPD.
- ✓ Coordinate the policies of the CSIPD with UCLG and other international organisations and networks.

#### **Coordination Committee:**

Perform the general tasks of the members and the following specific tasks:

- ✓ Accompany the Executive Technical Secretariat in the performance of its executive functions.
- ✓ Guarantee the continuity of the CSIPD between the two biannual meetings.

#### **Executive Technical Secretary:**

- ✓ Promote and coordinate implementation of the Working Plan. Encourage the Working Groups and provide technical assistance to their members.
- ✓ Promote a campaign defining concepts, policies and practices in the field of social inclusion, participatory democracy and human rights in the city. Organise an annual seminar addressing these subjects.
- ✓ Oversee coordination of the CSIPD within the framework of the UCLG Working Plan.
- ✓ Foster relationships and joint work with other international networks and organisations.
- ✓ Call biannual meetings of the CSIPD and monitor the subjects addressed in the two CSIPD biannual meetings.
- ✓ Define and implement the CSIPD communications strategy.

### **3. 4. Operation**

The CSIPD meets twice a year to coordinate and monitor development of the Working Plan. As far as possible, one CSIPD meeting will be held alongside those of the Executive Bureau and the UCLG World Council, while the other will coincide with a subject-specific activity organised by an international network or organisation with which the CSIPD coordinates its work. CSIPD policy and strategic orientation will be established during these two meetings. Decisions will be taken by consensus or, failing this, by absolute majority. The Executive Technical Secretary will duly inform CSIPD members who are unable to attend the biannual meetings of the business transacted.

Likewise, the CSIPD may meet around those activities in which several of its members coincide. The Executive Technical Secretary will inform remaining members of the CSIPD of any proposals arising from such meetings in order that they may evaluate same.

The official languages of the CSIPD are Spanish, English and French. Financing of the CSIPD must be ensured through its Presidency.

### **4. Budget**

Barcelona City Council has assumed the financing of CSIPD during the 2008 – 2010 mandate. The economic provision amounts to 100,000 €/ year approximately.

### **5. Members**

The updated list of the members of the CSIPD can be found at:  
[www.cities-localgovernments.org/CISDP](http://www.cities-localgovernments.org/CISDP).



United Cities and Local Governments  
Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis  
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COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATIVE DEMOCRACY (CSIPD)  
UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (UCLG)

Ajuntament  de Barcelona