CONCEPT NOTE

10, 100, 1000 Human Rights Cities and Territories by 2030:
Building universality through local diversity
14 June 2022, 17:00-18:30 (CEST)
Hybrid session

Led by the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights, in cooperation with the UCLG Policy Council on the Right to the City and Inclusive Territories

The adoption of human rights is a key achievement of the last century to advance towards a world of peace and social progress for all. Since then, local and regional governments (LRGs) have gained recognition as essential places and stakeholders to ensure human rights by responding to their inhabitant’s needs and aspirations in order to build more inclusive and resilient societies.

While many local governments around the world have already initiated processes to implement and translate human rights through local policies and programs, a new milestone must be reached to gather all LRGs willing to take leadership and innovative initiatives to tackle inequalities and discrimination; by paying attention to right holder and providing critical access to essential rights like water, food, education, housing but also to shape a new generation of rights (digital rights, extra-territorial rights etc.).

This is why the UCLG-CSIPDHR’s decided to launch a global campaign “10, 100, 1000 Human Rights Cities and Territories by 2030”, to scale-up local initiatives and advance towards a consolidated global movement of human rights cities and territories. The campaign aims at gathering 1000 local and regional governments by 2030 that share common values and seek to guarantee human dignity by mainstreaming and institutionalizing human rights. Through the campaign, the Human Rights Cities and Territories will be a source of inspiration for inclusion and social innovation, building on the diversity of local realities, experiences and trajectories to enhance public action.

Held in the framework of the historical agreement between UCLG and the UN-OHCHR (November 2021) which seeks to better connect local initiatives to international discussions, the session will bring together local governments willing to strengthen the global movement of human rights cities and territories and call more LRG’s to revamp the socio-territorial contract with their inhabitants through a rights-based perspective in the post-pandemic era.

The first step of the Campaign is to gather 100 cities and territories that are working on or wishing to act on human rights on the occasion of the UCLG World Congress in Daejeon, Republic of Korea.

Guiding questions:
- Why are human rights meaningful for local and regional governments?
- How can human rights enable a transversal approach to public action, highlighting the interrelation and intersectionality in local challenges?
- How to turn local rights-based initiatives into a consolidated and internationally recognized movement of “Human rights cities and territories”?
Agenda

Opening remarks (17:00-17:15)

Rights on time! Local and regional governments raise their voice for human rights (17:15-17:50)

Insights from partners (17:50-18:05)

Updates on the campaign (18:05-18:15)

Open discussion (with all panelists and questions/comments from the floor) (18:15-18:25)

Closing remarks (18:25-18:30)