UCLG – CSIPDHR Global Campaign "10,100,1000 Human Rights Cities and Territories by 2030": Local and Regional Governments commit to Human Rights !

Report on the first results of the Global Campaign

10 December - Human Rights Day 2022

Context and objectives of the Campaign:

Human rights are both challenges and enablers for achieving a just, democratic and sustainable world in the face of systemic economic, social, political and ecological crises. The UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Human Rights (UCLG-CSIPDHR) is an international platform bringing together Local and Regional Governments (LRGs) worldwide to foster collective thinking and action on Human Rights at the local level through political debates, advocacy campaigns and learning initiatives. As a thematic Committee of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the CSIPDHR aspires to amplify voices of cities and territories on key issues encompassing Human Rights.

In a moment of increasing conflicts, crisis and inequalities, strengthening the role of LRGs in the promotion of Human Rights at local and global level is more important than ever. LRGs that have integrated human rights into their local action have been able to respond to the COVID-19 crisis more effectively, for instance example by ensuring the protection of women victims of violence; providing access to vaccination for migrants; access to education; and fostering solidarity and caring towards the most marginalized groups. Human rights also represent a source of inspiration for inclusion and social innovation, creating new areas of action to respond to local demands and realities, ranging from intercultural dialogue and peace to climate action and digital rights.

In this framework, in July 2022, the cities of Barcelona, Grigny, Gwangju, Mexico City, Utrecht and Vienna – co-presidents and active members of the UCLG-CSIPDHR- launched an international call to invite 100 pioneer cities and territories to commit to human rights through the Global Campaign "10, 100, 1000 Human Rights Cities and Territories by 2030". Promoted in the context of the activities of the CSIPDHR, this Global Campaign aims at gathering 1000 Local and Regional Governments from all over the world to strengthen LRGs' political commitment to Human Rights and participate in an international movement of "Human Rights Cities and Territories" as a contribution to the UN 2030 Agenda.

On the short-term, the Campaign aims at connecting local initiatives at the international level to promote solidarity, cooperation and dialogue on Human Rights and local action worldwide. Moreover, the Campaign aims to raise awareness on the

linkages between local action and Human Rights; and to invite LRGs to express a formal political commitment to ensure Human Rights protection, promotion, and fulfillment.

On the medium-long term, this initiative aims at encouraging LRGs to initiate processes for the adoption and recognition of local Human Rights frameworks; as well as at scaling up local initiatives, strategies and policies on Human Rights to foster recognition and participation of LRGs human rights global agendas and mechanisms, including at UN level.

Outreach and First Results

The first step of the Global Campaign was to gather the first pioneer cities and territories committed to Human Rights during the UCLG World Congress in Daejeon (10 - 14 October 2022). On 15 July 2022, the UCLG-CSIPDHR sent a presentation note and the form to join the Campaign to more than 300 cities and territories in more than 80 countries; as well as to more than 55 partner city networks, civil society associations and national institutions working with Local and Regional Governments.

Following the great mobilization in October 2022 Daejeon, by 10 December – the International Human Rights Day - the UCLG-CSIPDHR received more than 100 pledges and 67 forms from Cities and Territories worldwide.

Main findings

This first report is based on the 67 forms submitted by cities and territories participating in the Campaign (see the Annex with the list of LRGs that have contributed to the report). The form was structured in the following sections: i) key information on the city/territory: number of inhabitants; type of LRGs (region, district, city, etc.); and specific information on the local governance (name of the local representatives; political structure, etc); ii) vision, principles and ideas on the role of LRGs in the promotion of

Human Rights iii) **motivations** to join the Global Campaign; iv) **main areas of focus and key local initiatives** related to Human Rights; including examples of policies, law and mechanisms.

The form concluded by a **political statement** signed by local representatives to commit to Human Rights and at local and international level.

The vision as "Human Rights Cities and Territories"

In the first part of the form , cities and territories were asked to reply to the following questions: *1) why are local and regional governments essential to promote, fulfill and respect Human Rights? 2) why Human Rights are meaningful values and a useful framework to guide your local action?*

Overall, cities highlighted "**participation**" and "**proximity**" **as catalyzers for the promotion of Human Rights at local level**; focusing on LRGs` ability to enhance civic engagement, cooperation and exchange as the closest level of government to the citizens. For instance, **Chiguayante** highlighted the knowledge of local governments of the specific needs of their inhabitants as a key tool to translate Human Rights into more context-based local policies. Several cities such as **Montegrotto, Granollers, Móstoles and Parma** underscored both proximity and participation as key elements to catalyze a "Human Rights culture" based on peace and mutual respect, for example through educational activities in public spaces to strengthen awareness on Human Rights and with the involvement of civil society. Other cities such as **Lyon, Valencia** and **Quilmes** highlighted proximity as a vector to enhance social cohesion, solidarity and active participation in decision making among the inhabitants, contributing to the effectiveness of local democracy and of local policies.

Furthermore, many LRGs underscored that **Human Rights represent an effective framework to foster coherence across different policy areas**; as well as to connect the concepts of "participation" and "proximity" with the duties and responsibilities of local governments to ensure access to public services for all. **São Paulo and Bogotá**, for instance, recalled that LRGs have the obligation to integrate national and international Human Rights frameworks into public policy; while **Esteban Echeverría** recalled

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international frameworks on Human Rights as an umbrella for more effective local action. **Manresa, Getafe, Iztapalapa, Strasbourg and Terrassa** linked the respect of Human Rights to the responsibility of LRGs to promote more comprehensive and less sectorial policies and to adopt common frameworks at local level; especially in light of growing inequalities and crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic or the ongoing conflicts.

Along the same line, LRGs such as **Leganés, Rabat** and **Vienna**, recalled the **"Human-Rights-based approach"** to local action as a transversal approach to ensure well-being and dignity for all; to fight poverty, discrimination and social exclusion and to enhance democracy, especially through the use of public space and through more inclusive urban planning. In this sense, the cities of **Sfax and Goicochea** highlighted that Human Rights-based approaches also contribute to transparency and access to information, which represent two essential elements to build trust between local institutions and their inhabitants; but also to foster freedom, equity and equality among the inhabitants. **Librevill**e stated that the Human Rights should also be adopted as a benchmark to evaluate the efficacity of local public policies.

Most of the cities and territories made explicit **links between Human Rights and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Quilmes and Strasbourg** underlined the deep interdependence between Human Rights and sustainability to foster environment protection, social inclusion and gender equality. **Quito, Iztapalapa, Goicochea** highlighted the importance of Human Rights to promote more people-centered development models based on the notions of caring and proximity. In the same direction, other cities such as **Sant Boi de Llobregat**, **Ciudad Juárez** and **Municipio B** stated the key role of Human Rights to legitimize more feminist and intercultural approaches to local action and also promote the "Right to the City".

Some of the LRGs also stated that **Human Rights represent a political commitment to build on and expand specific local trajectories or historical legacy**: **Leuven**, which had already declared itself a "Human Rights City" before the launch of the UCLG-CSIPDHR Campaign, affirmed the need to scale-up action and further strengthen support for Human Rights among the general public; as well as to further enhance multistakeholder cooperation.
Similarly, other cities utilize Human Rights frameworks to further strengthen long-standing and established guiding principles of local action such as tolerance and democracy in the case of **Amsterdam**; and memory and diversity in **Tuzla and San Antonio (Texas)**.

Several LRGs also underscored **the power of Human Rights to improve multi-level governance**: **Ames, Valparaíso, Utrecht and Saint Louis** highlighted the responsibilities to align local action to national and international laws and EU frameworks on Human Rights. **Lyon** stated the need to better link Human Rights with public service delivery and foster joint actions around this to trigger mobilization at local,

national and international levels; while the **Department of Seine Saint Denis** called for an increased participation of LRGs in international mechanisms for the realisation of Human Rights. Mayo and Irbid highlighted multi-level governance on Human Rights as a key factor to promote shared responsibilities at different levels of governments to delivery public infrastructures and services; but also to facilitate decentralization processes on the basis of common principles and Human Rights-based approaches. **Gennevilliers and Malakoff** emphasized that proximity and participation have allowed local governments to develop specific competences in delivering public services which can lead to innovation and creative solutions to be scaled-up at other levels of governments.

Motivations to join the Global Campaign

Concerning the motivations outlined by LRGS to join the Global Campaign, **LRGs generally emphasized the need to leverage this initiative to foster political commitment, mutual learning and dialogue and cooperation** on Human Rights among cities and territories worldwide. Cities and territories also joined the Campaign to favor stronger collaboration with civil society for the development of local policies; and to foster a collective reflection on local action with a specific focus on the most marginalized groups and social inclusion.

In this regard, **Utrecht** – co-president of the CSIPDHR and one of the first cities launching the international call to join the campaign – highlighted that international cooperation on Human Rights and strengthening of "Human Rights Cities" through the Campaign will be a great incentive to translate Human Rights standards locally and more "explicitly" leverage them to improve local priorities related to circular economy, migration, equity and digitization. In the same line, **Municipio B**, highlighted the Global Campaign as a tool to adopt Human Rights from a "neighborhood's point of view", integrating them into the daily life of citizens.

Focusing on **multi-level governance**, the cities of **Tandil, Granollers ad Libreville** highlighted the need to act together to **"institutionalize" local commitment on Human Rights** with the help of initiatives like the Global Campaign, with a view to advance Human Rights globally. **Nuremberg, Goicochea and Terrassa** recognized the institutionalization of Human Rights at local level as a way to support national institutions working on Human Rights. This would also contribute to the alignment of human and financial resources and exchange at different levels of government; and

promote the adoption of local Human Rights plans. **Malakoff** also insisted that the alignment between local and national Human Rights plans could lead to a "change of scale" in the promotion Human Rightsand push for further recognition of local stakeholders along with the international and the national ones. In the same line, the **Department of Aude** highlighted that the Campaign could reinforce Human Rights Cities towards more comprehensive understanding of the complexity of multi-level governance; and diver stakeholders involved in the promotion of Human Rights in order better measure the joint impact of their actions.

Cities and territories such as the **Department of Seine Saint Denis, Leuven, Esteban Echeverría, Gennevilliers and Valencia** highlighted the need of international initiatives like the Campaign to leverage the notion of "Human Rights City" **to defend Human Rights defenders** more prominently in light of the increasing Human Rights violations worldwide; as well as to build **new partnership**.

Cities such as **Mechelen, Alfàs del Pi , Padua and Sant Boi de Llobregat** emphasized their willingness to link the Campaign to other previous commitment or ongoing intentional initiatives of decentralized cooperation on the realization of Human Rights; such as the movement of "Shelter Cities"; or to align it with other national initiatives and local sustainability plans for the achievement of the SDGs, as in the case of several Spanish cities joining the Campaign part of the *Alianza de los Municipios del Sur* and/or of *Ciutats Defensores dels Drets Humans*.

Lastly, other LRGs focused on themes and priorities to be enhanced through the Global Campaign: **Quito andLyon**called for more international cooperation and advocacy actions on the role of LRGs to fight exclusion and discrimination in all their different dimensions; **Dannieh Municipalities Union** put the emphasis on the COVID-19 recovery; while **Ames and Lyon** joined the Campaign as a tool to promote intercultural dialogue and respect for diversity at global and local levels.

Key areas of focus; laws and mechanisms.

The areas of focus of policy action on Human Rights highlighted vary considerably among the LRGs joining the Campaign. The most mentioned areas are **migration** and **gender equality**; especially in terms of gender mainstreaming and gender equality plans; and migrants' access to social rights. More specifically, some LRGs such **Rabat and Iztapalapa** highlighted their action to foster women's access in public spaces and to address gender-based violence; while **Nuremberg** and **Alfás del Pi** focused on

raising-awareness activities to tackle misogyny, gender-based stereotypes and female genital mutilation.

Regarding migration, some cities such as **Allones, Utrecht, Lyon, Getafe, Móstoles** and Strasbourg highlighted their initiatives for refugees' welcome and for more dignified human mobility as in the case of **Ciudad Juárez**; while others focused on more broader initiatives to foster social inclusion through access to culture or through specific activities and local plans against discrimination, racism and xenophobia. In this sense, cities such as **Esteban Echeverría, Diyarbakir, Nantes, Granollers and Tuzla** highlighted the importance of historical memory through cultural activities and intercultural dialogue to foster social cohesion more broadly. Several LRGs such as **Amsterdam, Lyon, Leuven, Malakoff and Padua** highlighted their action for the protection of Human Rights Defenders of other countries to both provide them with legal and social support and to promote advocacy actions to defend Human Rights globally.

Another important area of focus mentioned by LRGs is **Human Rights education**, especially in relation to Human Rights awareness and training in public local public administrations as in the case of **San Antonio (Chile)** or to foster peace and memory in the case of **Bogotá and Macul**; but also with specific focus on peri-urban areas – which are often marginalized - such as in the case of **Mayo and Quito**; or to foster the youth sensibilisation in the cases of **Dannieh Municipalities Union and the Department of Aude**.

Other two additional areas of action often mentioned by LRGs are **food security and access to health**, such as in the cases of **Sfax** – which highlights the LRGs' expendabilities to ensure a healthy environment- but also **Saint Louis; Afadzato, Ames, Gennevilliers, Libreville, Mayo, Malakoff, Iztapalapa and Tandil,** which mentioned the linkages between health and access to water and sanitation. Some of the LRGs such as **San Antonio (Texas)** also underscored the importance of job creation to fight poverty and promote social inclusion.

Few LRGs also highlighted their action on climate action and access to housing in relation to Human rights such as **Afadzato, Amsterdam, Grenoble, Mayo and San Antonio (Texas)**. Regarding **key target groups** often mentioned by LRGs, cities such as **Amsterdam, Macul, Mechelen, Grenoble, Fuenlabrada, São Paulo and Valencia** highlighted specific initiatives to for inclusive citizenship linked to the LGBTQI+ community; while **Vienna, Montegrotto and Rabat focused** on their actions to guarantee children's rights.

Lastly, **several LRGs mentioned specific mechanisms, local bodies, observatories and institutions for the protections of Human Rights**, as in the cases of **Vienna, Sfax, Chinguayante and Utrecht**; but also **participatory mechanisms** to foster citizens'

engagement, cooperation with civil society, access and and transparency as in the cases of **El Masnou, Bègles, Irbid, Getafe, Macul, Manres and Vaparaíso**.

City networks and CSO partners joining the Campaign highlighted several areas of focus to be leveraged through the Campaign. **Red diversa** aims at extending rights to LGBTQI+ community and translate them into concrete monitoring and participation mechanisms at local level. **Together Network and MKAAJi MPIA of Bukavu** highlighted the need to foster awareness-raising and "corresponsibility" in the promotion of Human Rights of both local governments and civil society in the cases of the. Other networks such as the *Asociación de Municipalidades Ecuatorianas (AME)* and **Coalition LAC** described the Campaign as a key opportunity **to** consolidate but also homogenize the expertise of LRGs on Human Rights through the adoption of common frameworks; pedagogical and learning tools and through capacity building on specific themes such as human mobility; multi-level cooperation or the fight against violence, racism and discrimination.

Next Steps of the Global Campaign

In 2023, the UCLG- CSIPDHR will focus on the following axes:

1) **Consolidate the participation and strengthen ownership of the Campaign** of the first 100 cities and territories joining the initiative through meetings, thematic working groups and the organisation of events in the framework of UCLG;

2) **Promote further outreach and communication on the Campaign** by promoting the **mobilisation** of the 100 cities and territories joining it with a view to create a "snow-ball effect";

3) **Outline key areas of focus for international cooperation** such as mutual learning and a facilitation of "city2city" activities, and local Human Rights assessments**;**

4) **Discuss the first steps for the elaboration a joint strategy** to ensure the sustainability of the activities that will emerge in the context of the Campaign up to 2030.

Annex: List of forms that have contributed to this report

1. AME (Ecuador)
2. Afadzato
3. Alfàs del Pi
4. Allonnes
5. Ames (A Coruna)
6. Amsterdam
7. Bogotá
8. Bukavu - MKAAJI MPYA
9. Bègles
10. Chiguayante
11. Coalition LAC
12. Commune d'arrondissement Douala 3
13. Dannieh Municipalies Union
14. Departement de Seine-Saint-Denis
15. Departement de l'Aude
16. Diyarbakir Metropolitan Muncipality
17. El Masnou
18. Esteban Echevarria
19. Fuenlabrada
20. Gennevilliers
21. Getafe
22. Girona
23. Goicochea
24. Granollers
25. Grenoble
26. Grigny
27. Irbid
28. Iztapapala
29. Leganés
30. Leuven
31. Libreville
32. Lyon
33. Macul
34. Malakoff
35. Manresa
36. Mayo
37. Mechelen/Malines
38. Montegrotto Terme

39. Muncipio B (Montevideo)
40. Municipio de Juárez
41. Móstoles
42. Nantes
43. Network Together/Spiral
44. Nuremberg
45. Padua
46. Parma
47. Puerto Real
48. Quilmes
49. Quito
50. Rabat
51. Red Diversa
52. Rivas Vaciamadrid
53. Rouen
54. Saint Louis
55. San Antonio (Texas)
56. San Antonio (Chile)
57. Sant Boi de Llobregat
58. Sao Paulo
59. Sfax
60. Strasbourg
61. Tandil
62. Terrassa
63. Tuzla
64. Utrecht
65. Valencia
66. Valparaíso
67. Vienna