



### **Final Declaration**

Coming together in Mexico City from 20 to 22 April 2015, representatives of Local Government come from all around the world, members of United Cities and Local Governments, of Mercociudades, of World Forum of Peripheral Local Authorities for solidarity-based metropolises, representatives of civil society and popular urban movements, part of the Global Platform for the Right to the City, in the presence of more than four thousands and five hundred inhabitants of Mexico City, we affirm our commitment for the Right to the City.

In 2050, seventy percent of the world population will live in cities. It means that in thirty years, more than two billions of people will move to cities, especially to the biggest metropolitan ones. In a world where only 1% of the population owns more than half of the wealth, urban areas are the focus of unsustainable tensions and inequalities.

In this context, Local governments and their inhabitants are urgently claiming for the Right to the City as a necessary approach to build a fair, inclusive, democratic and sustainable urban world.

In line with the 1st World Summit of Local Governments for the Right to the City of SaintDenis in 2012 and inspired by Mexico City Charter for the Right to the City (The European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City (Saint Denis, 2000), Montreal Charter (2006), Vienna Charter (2012), Gwangju Guiding Principles for Human Rights Cities (2012) and the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City adopted by UCLG in 2011, Local governments and their citizens, in the wide variety of their situations, do reaffirm their essential role as actors for the guarantee of civil, politics, social, economic, cultural and environmental rights.

The Right to the City is an individual and collective right for all inhabitants, in which territories of the cities and their hinterlands are conceived as spaces for the exercise and fulfillment of rights as a way for people to enjoy resources, services, goods and opportunity that the city brings in a fair, universal, democratic and sustainable way. In that way, Right to the City implies:

- Cities where the full exercise of human rights is guaranteed for all inhabitants
- Democratic, transparent, and participatory cities based on citizens' empowerment
- Cities as common goods for all inhabitants, where human rights take precedence over process of privatization, of speculation which necessarily involve the exclusion of the majority of the population, and where the rehabilitation of the historic center avoid gentrification

- Sustainable cities which maintain a balance and a respectful relation with the rural world around them and its natural resources
- Cities where economy aims to ensure well-being of inhabitants, and are based on endogenous and sustainable local economic development and on local resources without looking for attracting international investments first
- Multicultural and welcoming cities highlighting the wealth of migrants
- Cities where public spaces are accessible for all and recognized as necessary for the freedom of expression, and the various uses of the city
- Cities where cultural rights are guaranteed as a key for social inclusion In big metropolises, these principles should be applied through the building of polycentric metropolises, built with peripheries and not with a centralist focus.

We are convinced that Local governments, are daily working, through their public policies and with the participation of their inhabitants, to "contribute to build inclusive, livable, fair, democratic, sustainable and enjoyable cities; to impulse social organization processes, strengthening social cohesion and building active and responsible citizenship; contribute to build fair, inclusive and solidarity-based urban economy capable to guarantee productive inclusion and to enhance popular economic sectors." (Mexico City Charter for the Right to the City).

We want cities for all, based on social and spatial justice, without visible or invisible boundaries, and where collective good living is guaranteed.

In one and a half year, States of the whole world will meet at UN-Habitat Summit on Housing and Sustainable Development (Quito, October 2016) to define a New Global Urban Agenda. We want the Right to the City to be recognized in this agenda as an alternative to the overwhelming urban narrative based on the rise of big metropolises in competition. Goals, measures, indicators, and tools for the implementation of the Right to the City at the global, regional and local level are needed to be included in the future Habitat Agenda.

Furthermore, we ask UN-Habitat to guarantee an effective participation of Local Governments and their associations in collaboration with civil society in the preparation, organization, and the realization of the Habitat III Summit. We call for a joint effort of States, Local Governments, Academic Sectors and popular and citizens' urban movement to fulfill the objectives of this declaration.

Finally, we call for a strong common action of cities and the members of UCLG that share the commitment for the Right to the City in order to make this reflection and the recognition of the Right to the City progress into UCLG, through our common tool: the Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights.

Mexico City, 22 April 2015