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# The New Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City: Strengthening the Human Rights Cities Movement

## Dialogue

**Date and time:** Tuesday, 23 June 2026, 16:00–17:30

**Duration:** 90 minutes

**Lead organizer (Name / Institution):** UCLG (Adrià Duarte, Julia Guimarães)

**Co-organizers:** Global Platform for the Right to the City (GPR2C), Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR)

## Background

In 2022, during the UCLG Congress in Daejeon, the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights (CISDPDH) launched the global campaign “10, 100, 1000 Human Rights Cities and Territories by 2030”. Since then, more than 100 local and regional governments have joined this collective movement to strengthen the protection, promotion, and implementation of human rights at the local level. The campaign reflects a growing recognition that local and regional governments are key actors in advancing human rights and building more inclusive, democratic, and resilient communities.

Over the past years, the CISDPDH has developed important political and practical tools to support the localization of human rights. Among them is the *Guidance Framework for Creating a Human Rights City*, published in 2025 and co-developed with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). This landmark framework provides both political guidance and technical recommendations to help local and regional governments embed human rights principles across local governance, public policies, and service delivery.

In Tangier, the Committee will launch the *New Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City*, an updated global reference framework designed to guide local and regional governments in advancing human rights from the local level. The



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renewed Charter-Agenda reaffirms the role of local governments as duty-bearers, and recognizes 37 human rights in the city with concrete pathways for delivery.

Building on these instruments, this session will take stock of the progress achieved through the campaign and explore how local and regional governments can further advance the global human rights agenda through renewed commitments and innovative local action. The discussion will emphasize how human rights principles can be integrated into daily governance — from service delivery to participatory decision-making — and create space for dialogue on challenges such as financing, institutional autonomy or international solidarity. Ultimately, the session aims to inspire a renewed vision of local democracy where human rights anchor just, inclusive, and resilient communities.

## **Expected outcomes**

- Take stock of 4 years of the “10, 100, 1000 Human Rights Cities and Territories by 2030” campaign and consolidate political commitment around human rights
- Increase awareness and ownership of the *Guidance Framework for Creating a Human Rights City* as a practical and political tool to support the integration of human rights principles into local governance, public policies, and service delivery.
- Disseminate the *New Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City* as a renewed global reference framework for localizing human rights and reinforcing the role of local governments as duty-bearers.
- Foster dialogue on the enabling conditions required for effective human rights localization, including financing, institutional autonomy, multilevel governance, and international solidarity.
- Strengthen cooperation between local and regional governments, international organizations, civil society, and other stakeholders to advance a shared agenda for human rights-based local governance.
- Develop a strategic roadmap for the future of the CISDPDH campaign and the implementation of the Guidance Framework and the New Charter-Agenda.



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## Agenda

### 16:00-16:10 - Welcoming remarks and presentation of the New Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City and Guidance Framework

- **Adrià Duarte**, UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights
- **TBC**, Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR)

### 16:20-16:50 - Panel discussion

- **Philippe Rio**, Mayor of Grigny
- **Linda Voortman**, Co-Mayor of Utrecht
- **Oriane Filhol**, Vice-President for Social Action, Youth, and the Fight Against Discrimination, Department of Seine-Saint-Denis
- **Shams Asadi**, Commissioner of Human Rights, of Vienna
- **Amanda Flety**, International Affaires Director, Mexico City

### 17:00 - 17:20 - The Human Rights Cities movement beyond Tangier: Collective reflection

- **Mayra Mendoza**, Mayor of Quilmes
- **Koubonou Touni**, President of REFELA Togo
- **Rosa Boladeras**, Councillor for International Relations, Terrassa
- **Abdul-Hamid Karimeh**, Mayor of Tripoli
- **Lorena Zarate**, Co-founder and Co-coordinator of the Global Platform for the Right to the City

### 17:20 - 17:30 - Open Floor