

GLOBAL CHARTER-AGENDA FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CITY

SYNTHESIS DOCUMENT

June 2010

Preamble

Whereas all human beings are endowed with the rights and freedoms recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the international instruments that build upon it, in particular, the International Covenants on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and on Civil and Political Rights (1966), the regional conventions and charters of human rights protection and other basic human rights treaties,

Whereas all human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent, as indicated in the Vienna Declaration (1993), and reaffirmed in the Millennium Declaration (2000) and the Declaration for the 60th Anniversary of the United Nations (2005); and that therefore not only is the satisfaction of economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for the full exercise of political rights, but at the same time only the exercise of civil and political rights permits the participation in the decision-making mechanisms that may lead to the achievement of economic and social rights,

Whereas the city is a political community in which all its inhabitants participate in a common project of freedom, equality of men's and women's rights, and development,

Whereas the degree of freedom of women gives the general measure of the freedom of a society; and it is thus convenient to act in favor of the effective equality of men and women and to actively promote the participation of women in local decision making.

Convinced of the need to promote in our cities and territories a form of development that is sustainable, equitable, inclusive and respectful of human rights without discrimination; and of the need to act to extend democracy and local autonomy so as to contribute to building a world of peace, justice and solidarity,

Taking particularly into consideration the need to respect of human rights in situations of economic crisis,

Whereas the mission of local governments, through their actions and authority, is to apply this project and they must play a fundamental role in guaranteeing the effective exercise of the human rights of all their inhabitants,

Whereas citizenship, with its rights, duties and responsibilities is particularly expressed at the level of the city,

GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. Objective

- The *Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City* aims to promote and strengthen the human rights of all the inhabitants of all cities in the world.

B. Scope of Application

- All Charter-Agenda provisions apply to all city inhabitants, individually and collectively, without discrimination. For purposes of this Charter-Agenda, all inhabitants are citizens without any distinction. Any discrimination based on any ground such as sex, race, color, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation shall be prohibited. A city inhabitant is any person that lives within its territory even if without fixed domicile.
- The exercise of the rights enunciated in the present Charter-Agenda completes, develops and reinforces the rights that already exist at the national level by virtue of the constitution, the laws and the international obligations of the State.
- City obligations listed in this instrument should be understood as the duties of local authorities and administration; in accordance with the powers they have been legally recognized.

- A “city” is defined as a local government of any size: regions, urban agglomerations, metropolises, municipalities and other local authorities freely governed.
- A “territory” is a managed area which falls directly or indirectly under the jurisdiction of the city
- The reference to “access” in different sections of this Charter-Agenda is to be understood from both a physical or material perspective (proximity) as well as economic (affordable price).

C. Values and Principles

The Charter-Agenda is based on the following values and principles:

- The dignity of every human being as a supreme value
- Freedom, equality particularly between men and women, non-discrimination, recognition of differences, justice and social inclusion.
- Democracy and citizen participation as the policy of cities
- Universality, indivisibility and interdependence of human rights
- Social and environmental sustainability
- Cooperation and solidarity among all members of each city, as well as among all cities throughout the world
- Shared and differentiated responsibility of the cities and their inhabitants, in accordance with abilities and means.

AGENDA OF RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

I. THE RIGHT TO THE CITY

1. a) All city inhabitants have the right to a city chartered as a local political community that ensures adequate living conditions for all persons, and provides good coexistence among all its inhabitants, and between them and the local authority.

b) Every man and woman benefit from all rights enunciated in the present Charter-Agenda and are full-fledged actors of the life of the city.

c) All city inhabitants have the right to participate in the configuration and co-ordination of territory as a basic space and foundation for life and for coexistence.

d) All city inhabitants have the right to available spaces and resources to practice an active citizenship and that the working and common spaces be respectful with everyone else’s values and with the value of pluralism.

2. The city offers its inhabitants all available means to exercise their rights.

The signatories of the Charter are encouraged to develop contact with neighboring cities and territories with the aim of building caring communities and metropolises.

As a framework and summary of all rights provided for in this Charter-Agenda, the above right will be satisfied to the degree in which each and every one of the rights described therein are fully effective and guaranteed domestically.

3. City inhabitants have the duty to respect the rights and dignity of others.

Suggested Action Plan

- a) Adoption and application of a human rights training program for local personnel, with emphasis on the respect for differences, coexistence and the common good, as well as, if needed, the hiring of human rights specialists.
- b) A participatory analysis or audit of human rights in the city, which would enable the undertaking of a status diagnosis and the elaboration of a local development plan also participatory.
- c) Periodic evaluation of the Charter-Agenda in the framework of a public consultation.
- d) A participatory local action plan on human rights, as a result of the previous analysis and evaluation.
- e) Creation of different institutions, independent of the political authority, empowered to: provide information to citizens on how to gain access to their rights; receive complaints and suggestions from the city's inhabitants; and perform inquiry and social mediation functions.

II. THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

1. All city inhabitants have the right to participate in political and city management processes, in particular:

- a) To participate in the decision-making processes of local public policies;
- b) To question local authorities regarding their public policies, and to assess them;
- c) To public transparency and accountability of the city authorities.

2. The city promotes a quality participation of its inhabitants in local affairs, ensures them access to public information, and recognizes their ability to impact local decisions. The city particularly encourages the participation of women in full respect of the exercise of their rights. It encourages as well the participation of minority groups. It promotes the participation of children in affairs directly relevant to them.

The city promotes the exercise of all its inhabitants' collective and individual rights. To this end, it facilitates the participation of civil society, including human rights advocacy associations, in the definition of policies and the implementation of measures aimed at making the rights of its inhabitants effective.

3. City inhabitants participate in local affairs in step with their abilities and means. They take part in decisions of their concern, and express their opinions towards other individuals and groups in a spirit of tolerance and pluralism. City inhabitants take on the local policy in terms of the common interest, for the benefit of the community.

Suggested Action Plan:

Short-term:

- a) Establish promotional measures for participation in electoral processes.
- b) Promote the political and social participation of people that do not enjoy the right to vote in local elections.
- c) Establish mechanisms to provide all city inhabitants with access to transparent and efficient public information. In particular, essential information should be published in the city's most common languages.
- d) Adoption of measures granting the freedom of movement and the ability to voice opposition when large public events are organized in the city.
- e) Annual publication of a clearly drafted summary of the city's budget and balance sheet.
- f) Promote associations and social capital in the city via, among other means, the establishment of a system of public premises for meetings of local entities, movements and associations

Mid-term:

- a) Establish a consultation process for the preparation of the budget.
- b) Establish a system of citizen participation for the drafting of local projects, programs and policies, including the city's master plan and the local ordinances on participation. Extension of the participatory methodology to the follow-up and evaluation of local policies.
- c) Organize consultations open to all city inhabitants, when justified by the general interest issues presented.
- d) Adoption of a system to petition before the local authorities.
- e) Promote before the competent national and international authorities the legal recognition of the right of suffrage in local elections of all residents of the city, irrespective of their country of citizenship.

III. RIGHT TO CIVIC PEACE AND SAFETY IN THE CITY

1. All city inhabitants have the right to their personal and material safety against any type of violence, including that potentially committed by law enforcement agencies.

2. The city ensures the security and physical and mental safety of all its inhabitants, and takes measures to combat acts of violence, regardless of who the perpetrators may be.

The city is equipped with democratic law enforcement agencies, prepared to protect all its inhabitants without discrimination. These public agencies are expressly forbidden from resorting to any cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment.

When detention, retention or imprisonment facilities exist under the responsibility of the city, those places will allow the visit of certain independent authorities.

The city adopts measures to combat school and domestic violence and, in particular, violence against women and vulnerable groups, such as children, the elderly and the disabled.

The city assumes its role in the management of social tensions, in order to prevent friction between the different groups that live in the city from turning into actual conflict. To this end, it fosters coexistence, social mediation and dialogue among those groups.

3. City inhabitants act in a manner compatible with the promotion of everyone's safety. They respect civic peace.

Suggested Action Plan

Short-term:

- a) Start up a participatory process for the different approaches on improving safety across the city's different communities and neighborhoods.
- b) Granting of government credit facilities and financial aid, and provision of business premises for the local network that works in the neighborhoods most sensitive to safety problems.
- c) Implementation of a system of coordination and exchange of information on a regular basis with local judiciary authorities.
- d) Specialized training for local police forces, on awareness of and respect towards the different social and cultural realities of the city, for interventions in sensitive neighborhoods.
- e) Specialist human rights training for local police forces.

Mid-term:

- a) Engage the different departments in charge of urban planning, parks and gardens, public lighting, police and social services, to adopt all-encompassing measures to make public and semiprivate areas safer and more accessible.
- b) Foster the appropriation of public spaces by citizens as a means to build a public identity linked to the design and care of the space.
- c) Engage the respective national justice systems in the analysis of crime patterns, for purposes of decriminalizing those categories of minor offenses, petty crimes and antisocial behavior that are easier to combat with non-punitive measures which attempt to rehabilitate and integrate the offenders.

IV. RIGHT TO THE EQUALITY OF WOMEN AND MEN

1. All city inhabitants have the right not to be treated in a discriminatory manner by reason of their gender.

2. The city adopts all necessary measures, including regulations, prohibiting discrimination against women in all its forms.

The city refrains from engaging in any act or practice of discrimination against women and ensures that public authorities and institutions act in conformity with this obligation.

The city takes all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women by any person, organization or enterprise in the local sphere.

The city takes, in particular in the political, social, economic and cultural fields, all appropriate measures to ensure the full development of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men.

3. All city inhabitants refrain from engaging in any act or practice that may be detrimental to women's rights.

Suggested Action Plan

- a) Adoption of a Local Action Plan for Gender Equality that guarantees the non discrimination between men and women in all fields and that gives credit to the contribution of women to the city.
- b) Adoption of priority provisions to facilitate the access to social housing of women in charge of mono-parental homes or victims of gender violence.
- c) Adoption of measures to promote a better appropriation of public spaces by women.
- d) Advance towards full equality in the composition of local governmental bodies, including the board of directors of public local companies.

V. RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

1. All of the city's children, whatever their gender, have the right to living conditions that enable their physical, mental and ethical development and to enjoy all the rights recognized by the 1989 International Convention on the Rights of the Child. In accordance with this Convention, a child is any person under the age of 18.

2. The city ensures all children decent living conditions, in particular, the opportunity to receive normal schooling that contributes to their personal development, in the respect of human rights. The city provides free and compulsory primary education for all and ensures, together with the competent authorities, mainstreaming of secondary education where not provided by the other levels of government.

3. In fulfilling their responsibility, city inhabitants act respectfully towards the dignity and rights of children including those of disabled children.

Suggested Action Plan

- a) Establish a public childcare network, consisting of infant schools and other premises to provide comprehensive attention to children and youngsters, with universal access and, with a balanced distribution throughout the city.
- b) Establish an alert network that enables the city to intervene in cases where persons under the age of 18 are at risk, confronted to danger and violence, particularly orphans, homeless children, children victims of any form of exploitation, HIV/Aids sufferers and those displaced by war.
- c) Opening and/or strengthening of reception centers for children, with healthcare, counseling and family relief services.
- d) Design and implementation of measures for the appropriation of the city by children
- e) Implement specific mechanisms of youth social protection.
- f) Launch an information campaign on the international Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- g) Establish specific measures to assist disabled children.

V. RIGHT TO PROXIMITY PUBLIC SERVICES

1. All city inhabitants have the right to a socially and economically inclusive city and, to this end, to access nearby basic social services in optimum technical and reasonable economic conditions.

2. The city creates, or promotes the creation of, quality and non-discriminatory public services that guarantee the following minimum items to all its inhabitants: training, access to health, housing, energy, water, sanitation and sufficient food, under the terms indicated in this Charter-Agenda.

Particularly, in countries with rapid urban growth, the cities take urgent measures to improve the quality of life and opportunities of its inhabitants, especially those of less means as well as persons with disabilities.

The city is concerned with the effectiveness of the rights of the elderly and encourages solidarity among generations.

The city takes the necessary measures to ensure a fair distribution of public services over its entire territory, in a decentralized manner.

3. City inhabitants use social services responsibly.

Suggested Action Plan

Short-term:

- a) Establishment of a social participation system in the design and monitoring of services rendering, especially with respect to quality, fee setting and front office operations. The participation system should give particular regard to the city's most vulnerable neighborhoods and groups, as well as to collectivities of persons with disabilities.
- b) Immediate abeyance, where existing, of the legal, administrative and procedural requirements that bind the provision of basic public services to the legal status of city inhabitants.
- c) Review of local procedures and regulatory provisions, to provide the low income persons with greater access to basic services.
- d) Establish an equitable system of local taxes and fees that takes into account the revenue of people and their use of public services; and information to users on the cost of public services and the source of the funds paying for them.
- d) Careful observation of the needs of transients and other nomadic populations in the area of basic public services.

Mid-term:

- a) Establish efficient measures to make sure that private sector players who manage social or public interest services respect the rights guaranteed under this Charter- Agenda fully, and without discrimination. Contracts and concessions of the city shall clearly set forth its commitment to human rights.
- a) Adoption of measures to ensure that public services report to the level of government closest to the population, with the participation of city inhabitants in their management and supervision.
- b) Encourage access to all public services and to the life of the city to the elderly.

VII. FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE AND RELIGION, OPINION AND INFORMATION

1. a) All city inhabitants have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion: this right includes freedom to change their religion or belief, and freedom – either alone or with others and in public or private – to manifest their religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

b) All city inhabitants have the right to freedom of opinion and expression. This right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media.

These rights may be subject only to such limitations that are necessary for the protection of public safety, order, health or morals, or for the protection of others' rights and freedoms, in the framework on national legislation.

2. The city ensures that its inhabitants have the freedom to manifest their religion or beliefs, including the right of parents to choose the schooling of their children.

The city ensures that everyone is able to hold opinions without interference, as well as to seek and receive information and ideas through any media, in private and in public.

The city undertakes to give its inhabitants free access to all existing sources of information and to facilitate the creation and the development of new free and pluralist sources of information.

The city encourages the creation and the development of free and pluralist media and information bodies, freely accessible to all inhabitants, without discrimination.

The city facilitates investigation for all journalists without discrimination and ensures that they have free access to the widest range of information, particularly concerning the city administration.

The city encourages debates and exchange of ideas and information. It ensures that all inhabitants have free access to public meeting places and facilitates the creation of such places.

3. City inhabitants have the duty and the responsibility to respect everyone else's religion, beliefs and opinions.

Proposed plan of action

- a) Support religious organizations in creating new places of worship and withdrawal of any obstacles through city planning to that end.
- b) Facilitate the distribution and exchange of information in view of the various beliefs and convictions of its inhabitants, without discrimination

- c) Encourages initiatives in favour of greater tolerance and mutual understanding, among religions, beliefs and opinions.
- d) Facilitate the creation, development and accessibility of new free and pluralist sources of information; as well as training of journalists and fostering public debates

VIII. RIGHT TO PEACEFUL MEETING, ASSOCIATION AND TO FORM A TRADE UNION

1. a) All city inhabitants have the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, which includes the right of individuals to associate together and the right to form and join a trade union for the protection of their interests.

b) No one may be compelled to join an association or a trade union.

2. The city ensures that its inhabitants have the right to assemble together and meet peacefully. This right may be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary for the protection of public safety, order, health or morals, or for the protection of others' rights and freedoms.

The city ensures that its inhabitants have the right form and join or not to join a trade union, without discrimination. It contributes to the full enjoyment of labor rights by its inhabitants.

3. City inhabitants, particularly those who employ others, respect everyone's right of peaceful assembly, association and to join a trade union, as well as the labor rights of workers.

Proposed plan of action:

- a) Encourage and assist in the creation and the development of associations
- b) Withdrawal of any legal or administrative obstacles to forming associations and trade unions, which are respectful with democratic values and human rights.
- c) Facilitate the exchange of information among associations and unions and take the necessary measures to develop meeting places to this end, including the organization of association forums
- d) Encourage consultation and public meetings with local associations and unions in the field of public policies.
- e) Supervise and guarantee the fulfillment of workers rights in all works and services deriving from the city.

IX. CULTURAL RIGHTS

1. All city inhabitants have the right to inclusive and ongoing quality training and education, and to enjoy culture in all its diverse expressions and forms.

2. The city stimulates creativity, supports the development and diversity of expressions and cultural practices, and sport, together with venues for the dissemination of cultures and arts, in particular, local public libraries.

The city promotes training and ongoing education programs for adults.

In cooperation with cultural associations and the private sector, the local authorities promote the development of a cultural urban life.

The city ensures all its inhabitants access to communication services and tools. It promotes the learning of electronic and information technologies with free public workshops.

The city respects, protects and promotes the cultural diversity of its inhabitants, the only limit being their full respect towards the rules of coexistence and universally recognized human rights. It promotes likewise the expressiveness, creativity and cultural practices of its inhabitants.

3. City inhabitants respect the city's cultural diversity and treat responsibly the public areas and facilities devoted to culture in the city.

Suggested Action Plan

- a) Adopt support measures for adult education and ongoing training, including vocational training.
- b) Expansion of a public library network throughout all the city's neighborhoods.
- c) Adopt measures to conserve, protect and sustain the city's cultural heritage, and its sustainable and respectful access by city inhabitants and tourists.
- d) Plan for the creation, expansion or maintenance of quality recreational areas open to the public without discrimination.
- e) Offer IT training workshops and adopt measures to ensure universal Internet access.
- f) Careful attention to the needs of transients and other nomad populations in the field of access to education.
- g) Support measures for cultural creation in the city, in order to improve the working conditions of the professionals of culture and to promote active cultural practices of all city inhabitants.
- h) Creation and maintenance of sport facilities.

IX. RIGHT TO HOUSING AND ABODE

1. All city inhabitants have the right to:

- a) Decent and sanitary housing in a living area with features of urban centrality.
- b) Security of legal title over their home and plot of land
- c) Unconditional access to the municipal register.
- d) Migrants have the right to needs-adapted settlement areas.

2. The city reconciles its approach on land use and housing development, to adapt them to the economic, social and cultural needs of the population as a whole, particularly the most vulnerable groups.

The city takes measures to improve the regulation of the local housing market, for purposes of ensuring affordable options for the most vulnerable groups.

The city combats spatial exclusion and segregation with interventions based on social inclusion and diversity.

Furthermore, the city recognizes the right to take up abode of all its inhabitants, by promoting the guarantee of their title of occupancy, in particular for the most vulnerable groups, and especially, for the inhabitants of informal settlements.

In collaboration with other competent authorities, the city takes appropriate measures to offer a decent provisional abode to homeless populations, as well as an adequate site for migrant populations. It allows the administrative abode of homeless people at care associations, in order to ensure that they benefit from social services, particularly health services, in the city.

3. In fulfilling their responsibilities, city inhabitants use their regular home appropriately and promote neighborly relationships. Owners of multiple homes bear in mind that, together with other types of income, housing has a social function.

Suggested Action Plan:

Short-term:

- a) Assess accommodation needs as a function of the city's population profile, and create or strengthen a local service to recognize them
- b) Assess the situation of informal settlements in the city, and dialogue with their players to secure their possessions and status, and improve their living conditions.
- c) Immediate stay of evictions that do not respect due process and the principles of proportionality and just compensation as well as establishment of an alternative protection and accommodation system for evicted people.
- d) Expansion of public land by way of urban development, planning, and well-devised, area-based distribution, with citizen participation in favor of the low-income persons.
- e) Take on board and work with migrant associations in the processes of negotiation and management of local policies and services related to the right to housing and abode.
- f) Careful attention to the housing needs of transients and other nomad populations.
- g) Adoption of a public or subsidized housing construction plan, affordable for low income people, and a plan for the provision of decent shelters for the homeless.

Mid-term:

- a) Establish a procedure for land domain regularization that establishes timeframes and is non-discriminatory, especially with detriment to the most disfavored persons and groups. Involve the competent government in this procedure, where applicable. In the event of governmental delay or inaction, or risk of eviction, the inhabitants of informal settlements shall be entitled to legally demand the regularization of their housing.
- b) Enactment of the appropriate regulations to ensure full use of urban land, and of public and private property that is unused, underused or unoccupied, to fulfill the social function of housing. Legislative action on a regional or national scale will be promoted when necessary.
- c) Adoption of a local regulation that ensures the accessibility of housing for the disabled, and establish an inspection plan in collaboration with affected groups.
- d) Adaptation of local regulations to provide for the legal enforceability of the right to housing.

XI. RIGHT TO CLEAN WATER AND FOOD

1. All city inhabitants have the right to potable water, sanitation, and appropriate food.
2. The city guarantees all its inhabitants equal access to potable water and sanitation services, in adequate amounts and quality.

The city guarantees the minimum water and food supply for living and prohibits cuts in the supply of water for people in vulnerable situations that realize basic consumptions.

Where competent, the city establishes a public and participatory system of water management and eventually recovers traditional and community systems. It promotes local alternatives for water collection.

The city also guarantees all its inhabitants access to sufficient healthy and nutritional food, and that no person is deprived of food for lack of economic means. The city takes measures to mitigate and relieve hunger, even in cases of natural or other types of disasters.

3. In fulfilling their responsibilities, city inhabitants consume water in a manner that respects its conservation, and make appropriate use of facilities and equipment.

Suggested Action Plan

Short-term:

- a) Adoption of a local ordinance, when competent to do so, that prohibits outages of water, for people in precarious situations with minimum consumption rates.
- b) Establish a sliding-scale rate system which ensures that minimum consumptions of water are almost free or very inexpensive, and which increases in step with consumption to penalize waste.

Mid-term:

- a) Negotiate water and energy distribution terms with private operators, in the sense of guaranteeing the rights provided for under the Charter-Agenda.
- b) Introduces quality control to guarantee food safety
- c) Establishes a public service school meals in partnership with local farmers and producers
- d) Facilitates the creation of urban kitchen gardens and subsidized community restaurants.

XI. RIGHT TO SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

1. a) All city inhabitants have the right to a quality urban development, with a social focus, an adequate provision of public transportation, and respectful with the environment.

b) All city inhabitants have the right to electricity, gas and other sources of energy at home, school and in the workplace, in the framework of an ecologically sustainable city

2. The city ensures that urban development is undertaken with harmonious balance among all its neighborhoods, which prevents social segregation.

The city takes the necessary measures to achieve a healthy urban environment, and makes particular efforts to consistently improve air quality, and reduce inconveniences caused by noise and traffic.

The city is equipped with an efficient mass public transit system that reaches all neighborhoods in a balanced manner.

The city guarantees equal access to gas, electricity and other sources of energy, in enough quality and quantity, to all its inhabitants

The city prohibits cuts in the supply of gas, electricity and other sources of energy for people in vulnerable situations that realize basic consumptions.

3. In fulfilling their responsibility, city inhabitants act in a manner that respects the conservation of the environment, energy saving and the good use of public installations, including public transportation. The inhabitants also participate in collective community efforts to promote quality urban planning and sustainable development, for the benefit of current and future generations.

Suggested Action Plan

Short-term:

- a) Adopt measures aimed at raising awareness among city inhabitants of their responsibility in the processes of climate change and biodiversity destruction, and at determining the ecological footprint of the city itself, to identify priority action areas.
- b) Adopt preventive measures to combat pollution and the disorganized occupation of land and environmentally protected areas, including energy saving, waste management and reutilization, recycling, and expansion and conservation of green spaces.
- c) Adopt measures against corruption in urban development and against effects on protected natural spaces.
- d) Adopt measures to promote collective transportation services accessible and free or cheap to all the city's inhabitants and progressively introduce ecological public transport services.
- e) Where competent, adopt local legal ordinances establishing the prohibition of cuts of electricity, gas and other sources of energy at home for people in a vulnerable situation that realize minimum consumptions.

Mid-term:

- a) Approval of urban and inter-urban transit plans based on a public transportation system that is accessible, affordable and adequate for different environmental and social (gender, age and disability) needs.
- b) Installation of the necessary equipment in the transit and traffic system, and adaptation of all public or publicly-used buildings, work and recreational places to ensure access for the disabled.
- c) Review urban development plans to ensure that no neighborhood or community is excluded, and that they all have elements of centrality. Planning shall be transparent and organized based on priorities, with greater efforts on the most disfavored neighborhoods.
- d) Metropolitan, and potentially regional and national, planning in terms of urban development, public transportation and environmental sustainability.
- e) Establish a sliding-scale rate system which ensures that minimum consumptions of energy are almost free or very inexpensive, and which increases in step with consumption to penalize waste.
- f) Promotion of sustainable and diverse technologies for energy supply
- g) Establish measures that contribute to the protection of biodiversity on a local scale.

FINAL PROVISIONS

A. Adoption and entry into force of the Charter-Agenda at each city

- The Charter-Agenda shall become effective in each city after it goes through a consultation process that allows the inhabitants of the city to discuss it and adapt the terms of implementation of the action plan to local conditions and to the national legal framework; and upon its acceptance by the city assembly. The same mechanism shall apply for any review of the local Charter-Agenda.
- The Local Charter-Agenda so adopted will be widely disseminated among all city inhabitants.

B. Mechanisms of application:

- Cities elaborate precise indicators of the fulfillment of each of the rights and action plans established in the Local Charter-Agenda.
- Cities establish necessary bodies (expert groups, local observatories, independent commission on human rights or joint committee of elected representatives/civil society) to ensure implementation, follow-up and evaluation of the Charter-Agenda at the local level. They may also determine a complaint or mediation procedure (where available, this role could be performed by the local ombudsman).
- Cities establish a public consultation process to evaluate periodically the implementation and effects of the Charter-Agenda.
- Cities establish multi-level cooperation with other competent instances (local, regional, national) in order to ensure the right to the city

C. Role of the city in the promotion of human rights on an international scale

- Cities commit themselves to promote transnational local cooperation both in general, as well as for the implementation of this Charter-Agenda and to encourage respect for human rights worldwide.
- Cities endeavor to collaborate, within their powers, in the drafting of national policies, get involved as stakeholders in international human rights mechanisms (universal periodic review, periodic reports, etc).
- Cities encourage the participation of the civil society, associations and NGOs to the protection and promotion of human rights.