



# IZTAPALAPA • MÉXICO

# 2019 CONFERENCIA

# OIDP

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### IOPD General Assembly, 2019

### Transcript

Iztapalapa, Mexico City, December 10th, 2019

4.15 PM - 7.15 PM

#### Participants

- Iztapalapa City Council - Presidency
- Barcelona City Council – General Secretariat
- IOPD Technical Secretariat
- Enda ECOPOP – IOPD Africa
- IOPD Argentina
- Lisbon City Council
- UCLG CISDPDH
- UCLG worldwide secretariat
- Chihuahua’s participatory committee
- Cocody City Council
- IDDECO COPARMEX
- Autonomous Municipal Government of La Paz
- Xalapa City Council
- Matola City Council
- Milange City Council
- Office de Consultation Publique – Montréal
- Ollin AC
- Participatory Governance Initiative, Arizona State University
- The Participatory Budgeting Project
- Rosario National University
- Grenoble City Council
- Metz City Council
- Nanterre City Council
- Mandlakazi City Council
- Center of Social studies - University of Coimbra
- Luhwindya City Council
- Arkemetría social
- Nariño Government
- Conseil Départemental de l’Aude
- Generalitat de Catalunya
- Sousse City Council

- Government of the State of Jalisco
- Conseil Départemental de Kaolack, Sénégal
- Réseau Sénégalais des Collectivités Territoriales Pour le Budget Participatif

*Initially programmed at 3:30 PM, the session started at 4:15 PM because of the time of preparation of the room and the anterior sessions that lasted longer.*

**Clara Brugada Molina** mayor of Iztapalapa and president of the IOPD opens the session welcoming the participants and thanking them for giving life to the conference during the last three days. She states that the assembly main objective is to adopt a work plan that is useful, effective, well discussed and consensual. She wishes for an agile and deep assembly and informs that the session have simultaneous traduction in portuguese. While finishing her intervention, she passes the word to the general secretary.

**Marc Serra Solé** counselor at the City Council of Barcelona and IOPD general secretary affirms that the conference have been a success in participation, mobilisation and for the quality of its content and debates. He thanks the work of the mayor of Iztapalapa and all the team involved in this success. Regarding the General Assembly, he presents the two main challenges: the adoption of a work plan and the discussion about IOPD governance. He also wishes for agile and deep debates.

The **president** give over the floor to the technical secretary so the agenda can be read.

**Adrià Duarte**, technical secretary reads the order of the day:

- Reading of the agreements for the 2018 General Assembly
- Management reports of the presidency, general secretary and regional offices
- Discussion about the network governance
- Discussion about the adoption of the work plan
- Discussion and adoption of the conference final declaration
- Other subjects
- Closing of the assembly

Therefore, the technical secretary informs that the Assembly documentation is available in the entrance and online, on the drive.

## 1) 2018 General Assembly Agreements

The **president** gives over the floor to the technical secretariat so he can read the agreements that have been reached during the 2018 General Assembly:

- Adoption of the Agenda for Local Democracy
- Adoption of a declaration against the repression toward local elected persons that, in many countries, are suffering from repression for political motives.
- Resigning from giving a juridical personality to the IOPD and keep on working under the UCLG personality.
- To maintain the General Assembly as the network's top sovereign authority.
- To give local governments (cities) the leadership in the IOPD.



- Election of Iztapalapa as the IOPD president for 2019.

The **president** asks if anyone have a question or require to specify any declaration from these agreements from 2018.

**Camilo Romero**, governor of Nariño, Colombia, asks an explanation about the second part, about the declaration against the repression toward local elected.

The **technical secretariat** explains that many participants of the 2018 General Assembly asked to realize such a political declaration in order to defend elected members that suffer persecution in many countries not for crimes they could commit but for judicial constructions against political opponents. He explains that it was not concretely redacted but a call was made for solidarity and the vote was positive. Also, in many organizations, such as in UCLG, there is this wish to fight against these cases.

**Camilo Romero** asks to maintain this declaration.

## 2) Management reports presentation

**Clara Brugada** explains that in November 2018, Iztapalapa took responsibility of the IOPD presidency and got in contact with the technical secretariat. They also decided to construct collaboratively, with every members, the conference agenda. The IOPD was spread at the mexican level; at midyear, a national conference was held in order to present the event, many mayors participated and the general secretary was present through Skype. In october, another previous encounter took place, this time with governments, activists and specialists. The presidency's big work was the organization of this conference which implied a lot a previous work and the evaluation is still to come. Finally, she assumes the work of spreading the contents of the conference.

**Marc Serra** explains that as an elected member of the Barcelona City Council, he took its function of IOPD General Secretary in july of 2019, relieving Fernando Pindado. He is thankful for the work and implication of its predecessor, and being applauded by the assembly participants, he reminds that he's still working with him. He outlines a continuous mandate, knowing that he's not starting from zero, that a lot of work has been done at the Barcelona's Conference, emphasizing the adoption of the Agenda for Local Democracy, a complete document that must be the basis of the IOPD work.

He highlights two priorities: 1) improving the coordination with UCLG, in that sense he met with Emilia Saiz, the UCLG General Secretary and agreed on the necessity to work jointly. The IOPD must take advantage of the UCLG strength so our agenda can have more impacts, going ahead of the global movements of democracy and participation; 2) to concern for the dynamizing the network beyond the annual conference, importance of the debate about governance and the role of the promoting members. He gives over the floor to the technical secretary.



**Adrià Duarte** presents the 2019 management report of the technical secretariat centered in 4 aspects: the IOPD Award, the activities, the members' typology and the financial state of the technical secretary.

This year was organized the 13th Edition of the IOPD Award, 28 candidatures has been presented. The award works through two steps of evaluation, a first one open to every members through the platform ParticipateOIDP and another one through a prestigious international jury. The Award recognized good practices in participatory democracy and tries to put members into contact.

Regarding the events, he refers to the general secretary, the aim is to participate in conferences and co-organizing other sessions with the members. He also mentions two work-project: the creation of a toolkit to evaluate democracy for local governments, with UCLG and International IDEA; and the project of Pilot Cities from Metropolis within the cities of Córdoba (Argentina), Barcelona, Madrid and Montreal. The technical secretary actively participates in these projects.

Regarding the membership, he reminds the assembly there are three types of members: promoting, partners and collaborators. The promoting members, created in 2018, are part of the management committee and bring financial resources for the functioning of the technical secretariat, right now the promoting members are Grenoble, Montreal and Valongo, right with Barcelona, the general secretariat. The members consist of local and regional governments, and collaborators are organizations from civil society and research centers.

He also presents informations about new members that is available in the management report.

He finally presents the technical secretariat budget in 2019, with an income of 90 000€ thanks to the apportations from Barcelona, Montreal, Grenoble, Valong and the UCLG worldwide secretary.

**Bachir Kanouté** presents the IOPD Africa management report and congratulates Iztapalapa and the technical secretariat. With IOPD Africa, they developed different types of activities in order to put into lights good practices, to divulge and sensibilize local governments about participatory budgeting and SDGs. Some of these actions were: a training session for the partners in the anti-corruption monitoring in Senegal with 24 participants; an international training session about participatory budgeting, also in Senegal, with 18 participants; a training session for local leaders in Tunis along with UN-Habitat; two training sessions about participatory budgeting in Ivory Coast, a conference about good practices in Senegal that allowed to identify the 30 bests practices, with over 2000 participants, the ceremony delivery will take place on december 19th; with UCLG Africa and the African Union there is a will to organize such an event at a continental level.

Regarding the question of influence and impact, we defend the legislation about decentralization and therefore we take advantage of every occasion to influence on national governments. In March, a workshop took place in Abidjan, about the decentralisation african map, and in support of the francophones local governments. In Tunis, a conference about youth and living together was also an opportunity to influence policies about decentralization, transparency and the implementation of participatory democracy as a tool for local governments to face the difficulties of the population.

In the framework of the UN-Habitat Assembly in Nairobi, a networking event was also organized about participatory democracy.

In total, the african office counted a budget of 127.000€ from divers associates. With regard to 2020, the main challenges are the growth of the network and its consolidation, providing a political organization as well as the political orientation of defense of decentralization and participatory



democracy that must meet a favorable context by the political authorities are presented as major challenges because of the rise of extremism, migrations and other phenomena.

It's necessary to reinforce the awareness, the training and the local governments accompanying. Training sessions will keep on being organized also in new countries. Regarding the political organization, we suggest to divide Africa in five subregions that will choose a mayor as president, these five would then elect a mayor as president of the IOPD Africa, we hope it could take place in the framework of the 2020 IOPD conference.

**Jaime Juaneda** also presents its gratitude and show its satisfaction for presenting, on two consecutive years, the Argentinian regional office's management report. He explains that 2019 has been a complicated year as Argentina has known elections on every levels, from president to municipal, what made difficult the organization of events at institutional level. He reminds that in the framework of the project Pilot Cities from Metropolis, mentioned earlier, assistance have been given to three municipalities from the province of Cordoba. At Rio Tercero, in order to implement the single ballot for the renewal of neighborhood authorities; at Estacion Juarez Celman for raising awareness about the SDG to officials and social organizations; and to the Municipality of La Falda for training on neighborhood centers.

Moreover, the IOPD Argentina regional office was in charge of spreading the Observatory through activities and meetings such as the World Metropolitan Day when a workshop was organized, through the territorialization of the SDGs, the dissemination of the call for the contest of good practices, the 221 congress of neighborhood entities. Now we are working with 13 cities from 7 different provinces and two academic entities to make the IOPD argentina more formal

### **3) Governance of the Observatory**

#### **3.1 Regional Offices**

The **president** yield to the General Secretary for a first general reflection. The **general secretary** reminds the regional offices were created to dynamize the network at state of regionals levels, to have new members join the IOPD, organizing debates and activities. For the previous presentation, it's clear that a lot of work has been done, they are important tools that help the network growing in a regional area, but coordination is missing, probably because of the distance. We have to organize us better at two levels, on one hand to strengthen the leadership of local governments and on another hand to move forward and expand the offices. However, the general secretariat cannot be the arbitrator and deciding who is the regional office, but the regional or state level should be the one establishing the mechanisms to elect new offices, the members in a territory must self organize.

**Claudia Guzmán**, president of IDDECO-COPARMEX, reiterate the offer they presented at the 2018 general assembly to welcome the IOPD Mexico regional office. IDDECO offers itself to facilitate resources to finance publications, generate contents and offer its expanded network in Mexico and other countries such as Guatemala, Salvador or Columbia, to propose an IOPD regional office in Mexico.



The **Secretario General** reaffirms that the regional offices are led by local governments and express its gratitude to IDDECO. In every case, he encourages members to discuss it prior to the Assemblies and arrive with agreed proposals.

**Clara Brugada** announces that Iztapalapa is also interested in welcoming the IOPD Mexican regional office and make a call to every Mexican members to initiate a process to agree on a structure for the IOPD Mexico since there are many municipalities interested.

**Diego García**, director general of Citizen Participation from the Government of Guadalajara, announces that his government and the government of the State of Jalisco also are interested in organizing the IOPD Mexico.

**Claudia Guzmán** asks to resume what was agreed at the 2018 assembly, that local governments lead the regional offices, but that there is a structure that includes civil society organizations, and insists on the demand to create an IOPD Mexico.

**Camilo Romero** warns that Colombian local and regional governments only have 20 days left in office but it is essential to establish a Colombian regional office. He is sure many local governments such as Villavicencio, Medellín or Bogotá, would be interested, and civil society could be mobilized to achieve this implication.

**Antonio Hernández**, director of the District Institute of Participation and Communal Action of Bogotá, is also very interesting in setting up a Colombian regional office and will transfer this information to the incoming government.

**Rodrigo Soliz**, from the city council of La Paz, suggests that the technical secretariat establish minimum parameters to establish regional offices in every country or region.

**Diana Dajer** from Policéntrico, civil society organization from Colombia, celebrates the leadership of Nariño and the initiative to create the Colombian regional office and offer to collaborate.

**Jorge Carvajal** from Arkemetría Social, Mexico, points out that an interesting governance practice is multisectoral, that not only a government coordinates, but also civil society organizations, to give greater continuity facing the risks of political changes.

**Jaime Juaneda** joins the words of the last intervener, he affirms that IOPD Argentina look out for a mixed governance, respecting local governments leadership while including civil society stakeholders to guarantee the continuity and enough resources.

**Andrés Falck** from Coglobal, South of Spain, points out that the IOPD experimented a boom in the last 4-5 years, it's very interesting as it helps promoting participatory policies. He thinks it's due to the model of governance existing with the rotating presidencies that allow a territorial and ideological plurality. Regarding the regional offices, he encourages the technical secretariat to define a similar model that can be applied to any territory and maintain the role of the civil society organizations, as it has been the case in the definition of the IOPD work plan.

**Thomas Scuderi**, Metz City Council, France, highlights that in his country there are always more and more cities implementing participatory democracy experiences and it would be very interesting if there was a French regional office, but he also thinks that it's not the moment to do it but to launch a debate process between French cities, moreover 2020 is a year of local elections in France.

**Marc Serra** points out there have been two debates as far, the first one about complementarity between local governments leadership and civil society active participation in the regional offices, he



suggests to maintain and look out for the position approved in 2018 and ask if someone is opposed. No one is against.

The second debate is about who should choose which local government should exercise the role of regional office, he suggests that debates be organized at the level of members of a state or a region and bring a concrete and negotiated proposal to the technical and general secretariat with the support of at least a simple majority of the members of a region. Asks if this proposal seems right.

He reminds the countries where the idea to create a regional office have emerged: Mexico, Colombia, Argentina, Bolivia, France, Portugal through the network of Participative Autarchies led by Valongo. We can congratulate us for this interest.

The **president** reaffirms the two agreements reached:

**AGREEMENT 1:** the regional offices are led by local governments but the active participation from civil society organizations is sought.

**AGREEMENT 2:** to establish the new regional offices, dialog processes will be generated at state or regional level and a formal candidature must be presented to the general secretariat with the support of at least the simple majority of the members is the region.

**Calisto Cossa**, Mayor of Matola, Mozambique wants to share a thought, as the IOPD is the global network, regional offices shouldn't call themselves IOPD and the name of the country but NODP.

**Bachir Kanouté**, IOPD Africa reaffirms that in an organization about participatory democracy, every processes should be constructed in a top-bottom model, identify which cities do experiences of citizen participation and then create national networks and then continental.

### 3.2 Promoting members

**Marc Serra** comes back to the agreements of the 2018 assembly and remember that a figure have been created in order to share the leadership, generate work beyond the annual conference. In the last months, the IOPD has been talking to interested cities but it has been difficult to move forward. Before talking about concrete cases, it's suggested to clarify the functions of the promoting members, that take part of the management committee with the presidency and the general secretariat. They are asked to participate in two annual meetings, not necessarily meetings in person, they are asked to validate the new members and the new regional offices, and monitor the implementation of the work plan. They are also asked to lead each one a working group based on the interests of each city.

**Diego García** asks if by monitoring the implementation of the work plan he refers to evaluation.

**Marc Serra** points out that the accountability is before the General Assembly but it's better if, during the year, the work plan is monitored through the steering committee.

**Jean Jacques Yapo** from the Ivory Coast delegation, asks how one becomes a promoter city.



**Marc Serra**, replies that this is formally proposed to the General Secretariat, throughout 2019 we have confirmed three: Valongo in Portugal, Grenoble in France and Montreal in Canada.

**Dominique Ollivier**, President of the OCPM Montreal, explains that they have been promoters for only a month, after confirming it with the Montreal administration, various districts want to implement the participatory budget, but for the OCPM the priority is participation without exclusion such as the 2017 conference, that is to say, thinking about tools in favor of participation for excluded groups and announces that by 2020 they want to do an activity in association with the IOPD on this subject.

**Pascal Clouaire**, Councilor of Grenoble, points out that they have been participating in recent years in the IOPD that it has been very useful for them and they are proud to contribute financially and in human resources as well. The IOPD can't live solely on the contribution of Barcelona and encourages other cities to sustain the IOPD with economic, human or other resources, just as their city will do.

**Marc Serra** on behalf of the mayor of Valongo **José Manuel Ribeiro** who has not been able to assist the Assembly, reiterates the commitment of the Portuguese city that he is exercising as a promoter city.

**Jean Jacques Yapo** from the intervention of Mr. Clouaire, he understands that the promoter members help to boost the IOPD's actions, and he is concerned that only cities with economic resources can be promoters. He would encourage keeping certain prominent personalities on the steering committee.

**Marc Serra** points out the risk of generating a debate about a confusion and invited Mr. Clouaire to clarify this point.

**Pascal Clouaire**, he thanks this question and proposed to speak clearly on this subject. He affirms there is no strict relationship between economic contribution and having the status of promoting member, since we must speak among equals, and the contexts of each city are not even. All cities are welcome, but we must also understand that the IOPD can't function without resources, all cities participating in the IOPD Assembly must participate to facilitate the operation of the IOPD based on their respective possibilities. On the other hand, if a city wants to share experiences, it can do so without having the status of a promoter city, everyone is invited to share experiences and participate in IOPD activities.

Currently, the IOPD only works thanks to the financial and human contributions of the Barcelona City Council, and since this year thanks to other cities. They don't seek a privilege but help support the network, call attention to the rest of the members to make contributions and for the IOPD to function.

**Dominique Ollivier** already at the Montreal assembly we discussed how to organize more activities throughout the year and there is the issue of resources, we invite other members to share resources to carry out these activities.

**Baba NDIAYE** from the Departmental Council of Kaolack, Senegal, proposes to frame well who can be a promoting member and point out that in other international organizations there are contribution systems based on the resources of the members and for example depending on the level of income of each country. He points out a network in which 200 members participate, paying



€ 1000 on average each, those from European countries pay 1,700 euros and African countries pay about 400 euros each, as an example.

**Bachir Kanouté** remembers that at the 2018 assembly, the relationship between promoter members and the contribution of money was made, which generated a lot of discomfort, since we talked about participatory democracy, equality, but it seemed that those who have money will be directing and those who do not have resources. Like Mr. Ndiaye, he proposes to open the door to contributions for resources, in addition to voluntary contributions. Regarding contributions in kind, he asks that it is clear that he is always oriented to the work plan approved collectively. Asks the technical secretariat to make a document that clarifies that it is a promoter city and avoid these misunderstandings.

**Diego Fernández** from Grenoble, provides a technical vision, being a promoter member doesn't mean a privilege but a commitment, a greater workload for the technical team regarding the network and an economic contribution of city resources to the common interest of the network. Being a promoter does not give more rights, all members participate in equality in the General Assembly, it only serves to contribute to progress.

The **president** asks for brief interventions because we are accumulating a delay regarding the agenda.

**Marc Serra** points out an interesting debate has been opened, probably repetitive with respect to previous years, but that we should be closing. Regarding the promoting members, a commitment to work dedication is requested, nowhere does it make it obligatory to make an economic contribution, it is requested that they actively participate in the steering committee and lead a working group. The debate on quotes is important, but it should be left out of the debate about the promoters so as not to generate these inconveniences. Regarding contributions, to be more agile, a model with few, but of significant amounts, is more feasible than a complex system with small quantities. He proposes to centralize it through the technical secretariat.

Encourage to demonstrate to cities that propose to be promoters. We would have as a starting point Iztapalapa, Cocody, Barcelona, Grenoble, Montreal, Valongo.

Cities proposed:

Guadalajara (Mexico), Bogotá (with the exception of ratifying with the new government), Rosario.

**Calisto Cossa**, the criterion cannot be the desire of a city, because everyone will want to be, we must review the history of the conferences, the debates, the letter from Matola introduces very well how the members should make their contribution. We must take advantage of the experience of the chairman of the IOPD, who have organized the conference to strengthen the organization.

**Bachir Kanouté** proposes that we make a conceptual note about what it means to be a promoter and call for cities that want to be meaningful.

**Pascal Clouaire**, the questions that have been discussed during this debate have been talked about in Barcelona and Montreal, he agrees about the fact that we should define it well and suggest a work group to write it, a precise decision can't be taken during this meeting.



**Marc Serra** recaps the debate and point out notes should be taken about these cities that want to join, while waiting for clear and formal decisions from them. He suggests it could be done through a letter from the mayor, however it doesn't imply more than committing for major disponibility and work.

**Camilo Romero** asks for Nariño to be included, such as Bogotá.

**AGREEMENT 3:** to formalize a new promoting member, they should send a formal letter from the mayor to the general secretary.

### 3.3 Political leadership

**Marc Serra** suggests that the presidency should be shared by to mayors. Presidency is composed of two co-presidents: the political person in charge of the city that organized the conference in the current year, and the political person in charge of the city who organized the conference in the previous year. The presidency has the function of political representation of the network. The co-presidents are part of the IOPD Coordination Committee. The aim is to make the most of the political capital of the city that just organized the conference, and share the leadership. Therefore, the presidency should last two years.

**Claudia Guzmán** asks if it implies a modification of statutory.

**Marc Serra** answers affirmatively and, therefore, submit the proposal to votation.

**Jean Jacques Yapo** agrees with the proposition, however before voting, he asks if one should have the ability to decide and would like to know then if the outgoing city is the one taking decisions.

**Marc Serra** clarifies that it's a proposal for co-presidency, there is no one above the other, and it shouldn't generates incidents, it would always be cities from two different continents.

The **president Clara Brugada** puts into vote the creation of co-presidency in the IOPD formed by the outgoing president.

**Votation:** approved by majority (0 votes against, 1 abstention, the rest agrees)

**AGREEMENT 4:** creation of the presidency composed of two co-presidents: the political person in charge of the city that organized the conference in the current year, and the political person in charge of the city who organized the conference in the previous year.

The general secretary yields to the UCLG worldwide secretary.

**Pablo Fernández Marmisolle**, head of the UCLG General secretariat, passes on the greetings from the presidency and from the general secretary Emilia Saiz, he reiterates the enthusiasm UCLG have for the decision the IOPD took in 2018 to integrate UCLG work plan, and point out it would be nonsense if the IOPD wasn't part of the UCLG political influence.

During the UCLG global congress in Durban, local democracy was put at the heart of UCLG agenda for the next three years, among with peace, solidarity and the localization of SDGs. Moreover, the IOPD could take part in many other themes. The mechanism arises in order to the IOPD to be involved, is to formalize its participation in political councils: right to the city, multiscalar governance, ecological transition and opportunities for everyone. The presidency and membership with political representation can take place in these political councils, in order to have a voice and raise the IOPD's voice. The idea is to achieve an influence in global agendas.



Furthermore, UCLG has renovated its political mandate with the message that cities must listen citizenship, in this sense, the Public Council was created, so the IOPD's members are invited to actively participate in these discussions. These Councils' goals is to create recommendations for local governments regarding many themes and civil society members can participate.

Regarding the 2020 UCG agenda, it has a focus on gender equality and the empowerment of women and children, with an important participation in Beijing+25. It calls for mayors to raise the voice of the IOPD in this debate, and the civil society. Finally, he highlights that the IOPD should feel like the backbone of the municipalism movement, not just for its statutory but because, with Durban, local democracy got back at the center of the debates. He also notifies Nariño that the protection of local elected members is being discussed.

### 3.4 Votation for the city organizing the conference in 2020

#### The president announces the candidacy of the city Cocody, in Ivory Coast

**Sylvain Boka**, general secretary assistant of the Cocody City Council, presents the candidature of Cocody. The third deputy mayor of the city is also here, **Patricia Awa Ouassenan**. They both present the candidature to organize the next IOPD conference in 2020, in the first place they present the history of the city and its political organization, the actual mayor, Jean-Marc Yacé, it has been almost a year since he's at the head of the city. They explain the geographical context and the economic potentialities of the city with its transports and services infrastructures. They present the possibilities for organizing the conference, with different spaces and conference rooms. They affirm the city have the amenities and spaces necessary for organizing the conference.

They also affirm the government actions are framed in citizen participation dynamics, the city council has many citizen committees and councils about many local issues. They're also studying the implementation of a participatory budgeting. Cocody is used to organizing great conferences with the support of the national government. The date suggested is july or august of 2020.

The delegation of Cocody shows a video of the city.

**Bachir Kanouté** in the name of the african members, he wishes the event would be organized by every african members and countries.

The **president Clara Brugada** submit the candidature to votations.

**Votation:** unanimously approved

**AGREEMENT 5:** the city of Cocody, Ivory Coast, will organize the IOPD conference in 2020 and will assume the network's presidency.

The **president Clara Brugada** congratulates the new presidency and wish them the best success.

### 3.5 Conferences beyond 2020

The **general secretary Marc Serra** highlights the difficulties to work year by year and suggest to plan the work beyond 2020. He presents an agenda: for 2020 the city of Cocody is confirmed, for 2021 is



open (not african or european), for 2022 there is Grenoble in Europe, 2023 is also open for a non-european city and for 2024 Valongo, in Europe, proposed itself.

**Pascal Clouaire**, Grenoble's counselor, considers it's a great idea to have a longer term agenda, 2022 is an important year for the city of Grenoble. It's about an european candidature, in a complicated political moment for the continent, with the emergence of extreme right wing and populism, 2022 coincide with the european green capital and have an impact with the issue of participatory democracy and climate change. Grenoble also has a relevant history, city where started the French Revolution, when was written the human rights charta, the firsts mutual insurance in France, just as the firsts labor and political movements. It also has an history regarding self-management initiatives and social policies, and work among with other cities. As a mountain city, its inhabitants live the climate change effects, they want to lead the energetical transition that must be realized commonly and democratically. They want to analyze to what extent democracy can be a key in the fight against climate change.

The **president Clara Brugada** submit the candidature of Grenoble for organizing the conference in 2022 to votations.

**Votation:** unanimously approved

**AGREEMENT 6:** the city of Grenoble, France, will organize the 22sd conference in 2022 and will assume the network's presidency.

**Margarita Sierra**, secretary of Planning and Citizen Participation of the State of Jalisco, explains they have a state plan of governance and culture of pace in a transversal way and have great advances in participation policies. They offered their candidature to organize the conference in 2023, they don't have a work plan yet, but a firm will yes.

**Marc Serra** takes note and suggest them to present a formal candidature for the next General Assembly so there can be a vote and ratification.

**Camilo Romero** informs the municipality of Villavicencio, Department of Meta, Colombia, is also interesting in organizing the conference in 2021 under the theme of new citizenship and democracy.

The **president** takes notes and also refers to the formal candidature process for next assembly.

**Gisela Signorelli**, from Rosario, announces the Argentinian city is also interested and will formulate a formal candidature for 2021.

**Miguel Graça** from Lisbon announces the portuguese capital will be the green capital in 2021 and its participatory budgeting will be assign to this issue.

The **president** announces the assembly will now directly discuss the point five, as the final declaration must be adopted.

## 5) Final declaration

The president reads the points of the final declaration



1. Positioning the voice of cities at both the local and global level, and, towns and local governments alike, to commit to making the right to the city a reality, and the right to live in more humane, livable, democratic, just and supportive cities for all inhabitants, as compared to the use of cities as goods.
2. Exercise democracy in all its meaning, ensuring that people take the decisions and thus their right to participate effectively, as well as governing with citizens and making them the real protagonists of the current and future life of their cities.
3. Ensuring citizens and local communities fully exercise their rights and participation in the planning, management and enjoyment of our cities, committing us to permanently promote the collective construction (co-construction) of participatory, inclusive, equitable, livable, sustainable and productive, supportive, safe and enjoyable cities and metropolises for all people who inhabit them or are in transit.
4. Ensure instruments of direct and participatory democracy that increase and improve democracy, the participation of citizens, as well as their effective intervention in the orientation and decisions of the present and future of cities, in favor of a project of and with a city and therefore for all.
5. Deepen citizen participation as a tool to promote safer neighborhoods and cities, addressing the causes of insecurity at its root, generating community ties and promoting a culture of peace and defense of human rights.
6. Encourage the role of networks, organizations and governments, in the promotion of participatory democracy, human rights and the right to the city.
7. Adopt, enrich, disseminate and call to join the Agenda for Local Democracy, which IOPD promotes.
8. Endorse the commitment to meet the Sustainable Development Goals, which recognize citizen participation and the improvement of democracy, as well as the guarantee of adoption at all levels of inclusive, participatory and representative decisions within the goals linked to SDG 16.
9. Recognize that in order to effectively comply with these actions, local governments must in turn commit to defending and strengthening local autonomy, its competencies, capacities and resources in an articulated and collaborative manner with other local, regional and international bodies, where possible.
10. Lastly, to ensure, within the framework of their competences and powers, the progressive exercise of the whole of human and citizens' rights encompassed in the Right to the City, and thus realizing the sovereignty and power of people over their territories and their legitimately elected governments.

**Camilo Romero** asks to add the point about the protection of the local elected who are persecuted in the exercise of their mandate.



**Djamel Sandid** asks to make a reference to the movements that are shaking the whole world, a solidarity with the voices of the people who ask for more democracy.

**Clara Brugada.** It is very important to reflect the solidarity of this assembly on the popular movements that are happening in many cities of the world.

**Calisto Cossa** puts on the table the question of the Portuguese line, because if I use it it is necessary to guarantee the inclusion of Portuguese-speaking participants.

**Claudia Guzmán** affirms that according to the other assemblies the objective is not to politicize the network but to make an accompaniment to the good practices of direct and participatory democracy, and that we do not accompany particular popular movements.

**Rodrigo Soliz** proposes to add that local governments should facilitate access to information and on the other hand according to the previous intervention reiterates that this solidarity with popular movements is very delicate because in many countries there are movements that have polarized society, and have a 50% of citizenship in favor and another 50% against.

**Camilo Romero** comments that the call for attention is correct because we can write it in a way that highlights that there is a citizen voice that must be heard in some way by governments.

**Marc Serra** retrieves the proposals to be incorporated and makes a consensus proposal. In the first place, a point regarding the commitment to support the local elect persecuted for their political activities, recovering the wording of the declaration of the previous assembly.

**Camilo Romero** asks to add legal persecutions to the edit.

**Marc Serra** adds a second point referring to popular movements, but we understand the interventions not about the risk of politicization but partisanship by the IOPD. The IOPD must defend democracy and local policy but not come into conflict with movements defending for more and better democracy. He reads a proposal: “solidarize with popular and social movements around the world and with the right of all citizens to promote local democracy and peaceful coexistence”. And regarding access to information, he proposes: “Local governments should promote access to information, transparency, open government and accountability”.

**Calisto Cossa:** issue of the language

**Marc Serra:** we agree to translate every document to portuguese, it will be written in the agreement, not in the final declaration.

**Diego García** suggests to add accountability in the point about open government.

**Clara Brugada** agrees to add it.

**Camilo Romero** asks to talk about popular and social movements, as it's more inclusive.

**Marc Serra** adds it.

**Votation:** unanimously approved

**AGREEMENT 7:** adoption of the 19th IOPD Conference's final declaration.

## 1) Work plan

**Clara Brugada** announces the assembly will now discuss the work plan, this point has been postponed because of the necessity to adopt the final declaration before.

**Marc Serra** announces the technical secretariat will make a brief presentation but it remains a continuous work plan. We still have the Agenda for Local Democracy as reference.

**Adrià Duarte** asks the participants to sign the credential list to be counted on the assembly agreement. Next, he explains that he invited members to collaborate on the elaboration of the work plan and present the objectives and strategic priorities. The objectives are to strengthen the IOPD's actions as an observatory, to grow the network and improving its utility, and frame some of its work in the network of UCLG. Regarding strategic priorities, there are four issues: communication and awareness; practices evaluation; strengthening and expansion of the network; learning with decentralized cooperation and coordinate actions.

As for the thematic priorities, the aim is to center the action of the IOPD in specific issues in order to achieve more effectiveness, the priorities are:

- Citizen participation and climate change
- Participatory budgeting for the young population, youth participatory budgeting
- Legal frameworks to institutionalize participatory policies in local governments
- National legislation for participatory policies
- Local democracy mechanisms in consideration of the diversity of people through lots.
- Gender and citizenship participation
- Democratic innovation

These issues have been suggested by different members and the idea is that the technical secretariat assumes two themes for its line work and the rest of the thematic priorities are being assumed by other local governments through work groups or serve as reference for the program of the next conference.

**Clara Brugada** suggests to vote for two issues for major involvement, the issues c) and d) are being jointed.

**Andrés Falck** says that for having a long-term agenda, more than two issues could be selected.

**Marc Serra** says that for having 6 issues interesting every members, we could include these six, but two should be priorities for the technical secretariat, and the others should be worked through work groups. He suggests every participant should have two votes to select the themes, the two with more votes would be the priorities.

**Miguel Graça** suggests that members should have maximum two votes to avoid voting for every themes.



**Clara Brugada** enumerates the themes and asks who gives its vote so these can be assumed by the technical secretariat.

- Citizen participation and climate change 23 votes
- Participatory budgeting for the young population, youth participatory budgeting 3 votes
- Legal frameworks to institutionalize participatory policies in local governments 6 votes
- Local democracy mechanisms in consideration of the diversity of people through lots 5 votes
- Gender and citizenship participation 15 votes
- Democratic innovation 8 votes

**AGREEMENT 8:** the two priority issues for the technical secretariat are: “citizen participation and climate change” y “Gender and citizenship participation”.

**Marc Serra** asks the members who suggested the other themes commit themselves to lead the other themes, he invites them to get into contact with the technical secretariat.

**Clara Brugada** announces the closing of the general assembly and invite the general secretary to pronounce the last words.

**Marc Serra** is grateful for the respectful and active behavior of the members during the general assembly, he affirms the democracy is also built this way.

**Clara Brugada** invites the members to take a group photo.

## **SUMMARY OF THE ADOPTED AGREEMENTS**

**AGREEMENT 1:** the regional offices are led by local governments, but the active participation from civil society organizations is sought.

**AGREEMENT 2:** to establish the new regional offices, dialog processes will be generated at state or regional level and a formal candidature will be presented to the general secretariat with the support of at least the simple majority of the members is the region.

**AGREEMENT 3:** para formalizar un nuevo miembro promotor deben enviar una carta formal por parte del alcalde o alcaldesa a la secretaría general.

**AGREEMENT 4:** creation of the presidency composed of two co-presidents: the political person in charge of the city that organized the conference in the current year, and the political person in charge of the city who organized the conference in the previous year.

**AGREEMENT 5:** the city of Cocody, Ivory Coast, will organize the IOPD conference in 2020 and will assume the network’s presidency.

**AGREEMENT 6:** the city of Grenoble, France, will organize the 22sd conference in 2022 and will assume the network’s presidency.

**AGREEMENT 7:** adopción de la declaración final de la XIX conferencia del OIOPD.



**AGREEMENT 8:** the two priority issues for the technical secretariat are : “citizen participation and climate change” y “Gender and citizenship participation”.

### **Calendario de las futuras conferencias**

2020 **Cocody**, Ivory Coast, Africa

2021 pre-candidatures from Rosario, Argentina and Villavicencio, Colombia, South America

2022 **Grenoble**. France, Europe

2023 pre candidature from the State of Jalisco, Mexico, North America

2024 pre candidature from Valongo, Portugal, Europe