



IZTAPALAPA • MEXICO

2019 IOPD

CONFERENCE

PARTICIPATORY CITIES WITH FULL RIGHTS
participatory democracy and right to city

LETTER FROM IZTAPALAPA

The International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (IOPD) will celebrate its 19th International Conference after a long journey of learning, promotion and reflection, that began with the turning point of the previous Conference in Barcelona, the Agenda for Local Democracy , which promotes, inter alia, "the elaboration of the World Charter of Local Self-Government that incorporates citizen participation as a key element for democratic government".

The 19th Conference was organized in Iztapalapa, Mexico, from 8 to 10 December 2019, with the theme "**Participatory Cities with Full Rights. Participatory Democracy and Right to the City**" within the framework of International Human Rights Day.

Local governments and participants gathered in Iztapalapa, we call on all people and communities, social and political actors and other local governments to gather our wills to avoid the powerful speculative interests that use our cities as goods generating exploitation, segregation, gentrification and thus the breakdown of the social fabric.

We must unite our voices and actions to stop social and territorial inequality, the human, environmental and civilization crisis, transforming the way we conceive, produce, share, and live in our towns and cities. We call to commit to:

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. Local governments should promote access to information, transparency, open government and statement of accounts.
6. 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.
7. Encourage the role of networks, organizations and governments, in the promotion of participatory democracy, human rights and the right to the city.
8. Adopt, enrich, disseminate and call to join the Agenda for Local Democracy, which IOPD promotes.
9. 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.
10. 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.
11. Reassert the agreement on the declaration concerning acts of repression on local elected people, suffering of persecution for political reasons, and therefore avoid judicialization of politics.
12. Show solidarity with worldwide popular and social movements and the right for every citizen to impulse local democracy and peaceful coexistence.

13. 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.

In the framework of the 71st Anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights, OIDP calls on local, regional and national governments, and all social and political actors, citizens in general and all the peoples of the globe, to reject all forms of totalitarianism, to defend civility, human rights, democracy, life, humanity and peace in the world.

Iztapalapa, Mexico, 10 December 2019.