



Global Platform for the Right to the City
Plataforma Global por el Derecho a la Ciudad
Plateforme Globale pour le Droit à la Ville

Global Platform for the Right to the city contribution for the UN SG Quadrennial Report on the NUA implementation

- 1. Which themes in the quadrennial report can the organization you represent contribute to? Please feel free to pick 1 to 3 main topics**
 - Progress on social inclusion and ending poverty (with regional focus)
 - Planning and management of urban and territorial spatial development
 - NUA as an accelerator of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs and other global agendas
- 2. Please provide three examples of projects/programs/trends that contribute to the themes within the New Urban Agenda and that your organization was involved in during the reporting period (2016-2021)? (This input will be shared with all participants)**

The Global Platform for the Right to the City (GPR2C) is an open, flexible, diverse network of civil society and local government organizations committed to political action and social change through the promotion, defense and fulfillment of the Right to the City at all levels, paying special attention to people and communities affected by exclusion and marginalization.

Thus, our actions, by being guided by the commitment of advancing the Right to the City at all levels, are intrinsically connected to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, which recognizes the importance of such a right. Here are three key lines of action carried out by the GPR2C between 2016-2021 that advance on such course:

1) Collective development and publication of seven thematic papers on the Right to the City Components

The definition of the Right to the City adopted by the GPR2C lies on [eight transversal components](#), which in their entirety reflect some of the key aspects included in the New Urban Agenda. Starting in 2020, the GPR2C has been carrying out a major collective



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effort in drafting a [series of thematic papers](#) to further develop and contextualize such components, also connecting them with major relevant themes for the present moment, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the climate emergency.

Such a process seeks to contribute to the conceptual debate around the Right to the City, while also providing for concrete recommendations and examples to support different actors, with a special focus on local authorities, on implementing policies related to the themes at hand.

The elaboration of such documents has been carried out in collaboration with consultants and [through a participatory process](#), which included consultations with an advisory group with experts of the different thematics as well as direct consultations through open webinars.

So far, three papers have been published:

- [Right to the City: a roadmap for climate justice;](#)
- [The impact of COVID-19 on the Right to the City;](#)
- [The city as a common good](#)

And four more will be published between the end of 2021 and beginning of 2022:

- Cities free from discrimination
- Inclusive citizenship
- Quality public spaces
- Inclusive rural-urban linkages

2) Strategic articulation with local governments networks

From its inception, the GPR2C has been deeply connected to the growing municipalist movement around the world, and committed to the recognition of the key role that local authorities play in advancing the Right to the City. In this sense, the collaboration with local government networks, such as UCLG, has been an important part of GPR2C's actions, working together with local authorities and social actors at the local action in developing and implementing policies that are committed to the Right to the city. Some examples of such actions are:



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- [The policy paper on the Right to the City](#) with concrete recommendations for local and regional governments, published along UCLG ahead its 6th Congress in 2019;
- [The Cities for Adequate Housing declaration](#), signed by [a series of cities](#) and co-facilitated by UCLG and other actors such as the UN Special rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing, Habitat International Coalition, FEANTSA and the GPR2C;
- [The Agenda for the Right to the City for local elections](#) with concrete policy proposals gathered by civil society organizations ahead the local elections in Catalonia (2019) and France (2020);
- The participation in key debates organized by UCLG such as the “[Beyond the Outbreak](#)” webinar series, organized to discuss the immediate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in different realms and possible course of action by local authorities and other actors;
- The [Decalogue for Participatory Slum Upgrading](#), developed by a multi-actor coalition with a set of 10 key measures to advance a comprehensive slum upgrading program in Latin America

3) Initiatives related to the crossing and localization of global agendas

From its inception, the GPR2C has been very involved in the debates related to the formulation of the New Urban Agenda and, since then, it has been committed to advancing and monitoring its implementation through the Right to the City. For such, one element that has been recognized as central, is the crossing of the New Urban Agenda with other international commitments, such as the SDGs and the Paris Agreement and the potential of the Right to the City approach, through its transversal and territorial dimension, in advancing the localization of such agendas.

In this sense, the GPR2C has developed a series of awareness-raising, advocacy and capacity building activities to highlight the linkages between such commitments and the Right to the City, putting forward concrete lines of action for their localization through the Right to the City. Some activities are listed below:



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- [The Right to the City Agenda for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda](#), which develops the crossing between the Right to the City components, the SDGs and NUA commitments;
- Active participation with side-events and training-events during key fora for the follow-up of SDGs and other agendas, such as the High Level Political Forum ([2021](#), [2020](#), [2019](#), [2018](#)) and the World urban Forum ([2020](#));
- [Training activities and courses](#) on the Right to the City and localization of global agendas;
- [Communication and awareness raising campaigns](#)

3. Based on your experience of implementing the New Urban Agenda, which challenges remain the most significant in its delivery?

Three main challenges are highlighted:

- Limited commitment, coordination and continuity between governments for the implementation of the NUA. The need for a systematic coordination framework between governments, with civil society representation and the support of multilateral and regional organisms, as well as more clear definition of roles related to the implementation of NUA within government bodies;
- Increased interference of private interests on public/common goods, with a growing trend towards the commodification of cities, through the privatization of essential services and public spaces and deregulation and rising financialization of housing markets among others, with a clear effect in the rise of inequalities, segregation and exclusion in cities and territories;
- Lack of recognition and support to contributions and initiatives from the social sector for urban transformation such as the social production of habitat, housing cooperativism, collective management of common/community spaces, and the care and solidarity economy.

4. Based on Sections II – VI, which section has been most effective to date in progressing the New Urban Agenda



5. Are there any new or more pressing urban challenges since the last report in 2017?

Three main challenges are highlighted:

- The aggravation of democratic crisis with the rise of more extremist and conservative governments with a clear implication in terms of Human Rights. On the other hand, we witness the growth worldwide of the antoracist and feminist movements, with concrete demands that call for a reinforced commitment at all levels (included the monitoring of the New Urban Agenda) with an approach based on racial justice and the centrality of care;
- The aggravation of the climate crisis and its direct impacts, specifically for the most vulnerable and marginalized groups, calling for an increased commitment not only to climate action, but to climate justice;
- Immediate, short, mid and long term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, both through its consequences in terms of health and the social and economic impacts of the sanitary measures taken, but also in terms of how overall recovery efforts are approached. Since the beginning of the outbreak the health, social and economic impacts of the pandemic in cities and territories have been clear. The efforts to attenuate such impacts have opened the door for the implementation of innovative policies in terms of protecting Human Rights, such as the suspension of evictions, opening new public spaces and promoting active mobility, securing basic income and other social protection schemes and others. Such policies should be continued and maintained as backbones of the recovery efforts as to ensure that such efforts do not further contribute to exclusion and raising inequalities.

6. Is the New Urban Agenda fulfilling its role as an accelerator for the achievement of all other agendas?

We believe that there is still much to be achieved in order to fulfill NUA's role as an accelerator of all other agendas. In the last five years, we observe a limited commitment by different actors towards enhancing the visibility of the New Urban Agenda --which has increasingly lost visibility vis-a-vis other agendas, specially the 2030



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Agendas. Despite efforts to connect the NUA to the SDGs as an accelerator of the 2030 Agenda commitments, in many instances such connection has remained limited to SDG11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities; whereas a transversal approach linking NUA commitments transversally to all SDGs could be favored. Some key steps that could be taken in order to increase NUA's visibility and its connection to other agendas:

- Developing and implementing a wide-ranging communication and dissemination strategy, constructed collectively along social actors, governments and international cooperation agencies;
- Enhancing mechanisms for participation, consultation, co-management of cities and leadership training to advance the NUA, from multicultural perspectives, social inclusion, gender equity, functional diversity and generational renewal (children, adolescents, youth);
- Securing support for social organizations in actions related to the visibilization of the NUA and capacity building for its implementation.