

16th IOPD Conference “Good governance and inclusive citizen participation”

More than **1,500 people from 200 cities and 40 countries** took part in the 16th IOPD Conference, which was held in Matola, Mozambique, on 4, 5 and 6 May. The President of Mozambique, **Filipe Nyussi**, attended the official opening ceremony, along with the Minister of Administration and Public Function, **Carmelita Namashulua**, the Mayor of Matola and Chair of the IOPD, **Calisto Cossa**, and the Governor of the Maputo Province, **Raimundo Diombe**.

Filipe Nyussi, President of the Republic of Mozambique:



The Conference was held under the title of “**Good Governance and Inclusive Citizen Participation**” and organised into 2 plenary sessions and 6 working groups, as well as the opening and closing ceremonies, the IOPD General Assembly and technical visits to participatory experiences in Matola. Various mayors, councilors and senior municipal officials, along with representatives of the academic world and civil society, spoke in the different sessions, where lots of people took part in the discussions.

You can find some presentations and rapporteurs of the activities in this [folder](#)

The first plenary, entitled a “World overview on good governance and citizen’s participation”, wanted to give an overview of trends in different regions with some focal cases. The plenary was moderated by the Minister Ms. **Carmelia Namashula** and featured with following panelists:

- **Tagir Assimo Carimo:** Mayor of Pemba and President of ANAMM (Association of Municipalities of Mozambique) who presented the panorama of citizen participation in Mozambique.
- **Deise Martins:** Head of international relations of Canoas, Brazil, who presented the context in South America and the case of Canoas.
- **Bachir Kanouté:** IOPD Africa coordinator, who explained the situation of participatory democracy on the African continent; particularly the implementation of participatory budgeting.

Michelangelo Secchi speech in the first plenary:



- **Michelangelo Secchi:** CES (Coimbra University, Portugal) researcher, made a presentation on the European political context and its impact on participatory governance.

- **Dominique Ollivier**: President of the Office of Public Consultation of Montreal, Canada, who presented the panorama in North America.
- **Shin Gyangu** Gwangju Metropolitan City Council, South Korea, who explained the context of democracy in Asia.

Some of the main ideas that emerged from the presentations and the intervention of the participants were:

1. **Access to information** is an important element of good governance and participatory democracy. It is important to think about institutionalizing access to information tools.
2. It is essential to consider **narrowing the excessive bureaucratization** of the administration.
3. We must find ways to **implement economic decentralization** that complement the transfer of powers to municipalities/local governments.
4. We must **promote the education on participatory values** to ensure strengthens of democracy.
5. At the political level, we must reflect on **the effective participation of the opposition in participatory processes** promoted by local governments. We must be able to manage and normalize relations between the ruling parties and the opposition, especially about not boycott participatory processes.
6. The idea of the necessity to **establish a regulatory framework for citizen participation** and participatory budget was discussed, but we should not run the risk of institutionalizing too much or limit the participation.

Then the first day of the conference included two parallel working groups: one on **Art and Democracy** and the other on **Participatory Budget**.

The roundtable on Arte and Democracy organized by the School of Arts of Maputo was moderated by **Mahamude Amurane** (Mozambique) and featured presentation from: **Estevão Limimão** (Mozambique), **Caron Atlas** Director of the *Arts & Democracy* Foundation based in New York (US), **Filimone Meigos**, cultural editor and member of the Mozambique Writers Association (Mozambique), **Fernando Paulo Ferreira** deputy mayor of Vila Franca de Xira (Portugal), **Isau Meneses** Mozambican singer, **Victor Salas** (Mozambique) y **Rufas Maculuve**, musician and researcher (Mozambique).

In this table were presented artistic experiences, which defending democratic values and participatory democracy momentum, and the relationship between arts, culture and democracy.

Picture of the working group Art and Democracy:



The workshop on **Participatory Budgeting** was moderated by **Carles Agustí** of the Diputació de Barcelona (a supra-local government in Spain) and has the following speakers:

- **Carlos Siegle de Souza:** Deputy Secretary for Local Governance of Porto Alegre (Brazil)
- **Celia Cumbe:** Finance Councilor of Maputo (Mozambique)
- **Michelangelo Secchi:** (Italia) CES researcher and member of the *Empatia* Project
- **Leonardo Bulhões:** Secretary of Social Participation of Caruaru City Council (Brazil)
- **Sibusiso Mathonsi:** Mayor of Mbombela (South Africa)
- **Rondromalala Sylviane Andriamahasoro:** Mayor of Ampasy (Madagascar)
- **Esperance Mwamikazi** from Democratic Republic of Congo
- **Jelena Gregorius:** researcher at the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy

Some of the main ideas that emerged in the presentations were: the centrality of participatory budgeting in municipalities or communities that implement it. The need to improve the

mechanisms for dialogue between governments and citizens to enhance mutual trust was also highlighted. Speakers also converged in the fact that participatory budget is a form of democratization democracy itself, since every citizen can be part of the solution of the main problems of the community.

Carlos Siegle makes its presentation in the working group on Participatory Budgeting:



On May 5, the second day of the Conference, had place the IOPD General Assembly and the technical visits: monitoring of the Participatory Budget approved investments and open meeting with the councilors and neighbors. In the afternoon there were two other working groups:

The working group 3 "Citizen Participation through public consultation and participatory planning" was moderated by **Oscar Monteiro** historic leader of the independence of Mozambique and professor of constitutional law. The speakers were:

- **Edurne Irigoien:** Chief Staff of the Territorial Coordination Area and Associations of the City of Madrid (Spain)
- **Eva Ramírez:** Deputy in the Provincial Assembly of Buenos Aires (Argentina)

- **Rocío Lombera:** President of the Operational Center for Housing and Population - COPEVI (México)
- **Mousa Shaer** Mayor of Aizaria (Palestine)
- **Luti Guedes:** Director of Lab Rio (Brazil)
- **Anselmo Martins Figueira:** Dondo Finance Councilor (Mozambique)

The participants presented their participatory experiences linked to participatory planning. **Luti Guedes** explained the innovative initiatives that the Municipality of Rio is doing to involve citizens and are designed from Lab Rio, a space created after the mass demonstrations in Brazil in 2014 that showed detachment of citizenship with the traditional political forces.

Eva Ramírez made her presentation in group 3:



Edurne Irigoien showed some of the initiatives that the new Madrid government has started to change the way decisions and of public policies are designed. Especially the digital platform *Decide Madrid*, also being based on free software, can be replicated by other cities or interested communities. **Eva Ramirez** focused his speech at the Public Hearing, an instance of

participation in the process of making administrative or legislative decision in which the authority responsible for it enables an institutional space for all those who might be affected or have a particular interest express their opinion on it.

Mousa Shaer explained the situation in Palestine, in the words of the mayor "*our people use political participation as a tool of struggle against occupation*". **Rocio Lombera** exposed cases of participatory planning in housing issues, and defended the participation of children and young people in community affairs. Finally **Anselmo Martins** with the example of Dondo showed that participatory planning is necessary to involve and organize the community as well as getting a development that really care of the basic needs and rights of people.

The workshop 4 was about "models and experiences of citizen participation monitoring and evaluation", the moderator was **Eduardo Ngoenha** from Mozambique and the speakers were:

- **Victor Nataniel Naacifo:** Angola
- **Jeremy David Gorelick:** Senior Advisor in Municipal Finance for the World Bank, GIZ and UCLG
- **A Louis Helling:** Impact Portugal
- **Rudovina Bernardo:** Mozambique
- **Renato Silva:** Mozambique
- **Rodrigo Rangel:** coordinator of ObservaPoa, the Observatory of Porto Alegre (Brazil)
- **Victor Arroyo:** Brazil

Forms of monitoring and evaluation depend on the content that we give to participation, as a core principle in a democracy. Participation has several phases: conceptualization, planning, implementation and evaluation. Other key aspects are: the definition we give to participation, favorable and unfavorable factors to civic engagement and the principle of inclusion.

Monitoring and evaluation should be based on the definition of departure and long term indicators. These will be able to measure the impact and effectiveness of the participatory action. These indicators should be measurable, and is also important to know which the problem we want to solve through participation is. The legal guarantee for access to information is essential to enable citizens to perform effective control and monitoring.

During the last day of the Conference, on Friday May 6, took place the second Plenary, workshops 5 and 6, and the Closing Ceremony with the delivery of the IOPD Award.

The Second Plenary "citizen participation, new urban agenda and basic service sponsoring" was moderated by **Adriano Melaine**, Minister of Economy and Finance of Mozambique. The speakers were:

- **Anne-Lucie Lefebvre**: Sr. Public Sector Specialist at The World Bank
- **Joost Möhlmann**: Mozambique - Head of Programme at UN-Habitat
- **Nobre de Jesus Canhanga**: National Programmer Officer for Local Governance at Swiss Cooperation in Mozambique
- **Sven Kühn von Burgsdorff**: Head of Delegation of the European Union to Mozambique
- **Tomás Matola**: Chairman of the National Investment Bank of Mozambique
- **Sara Hoeflich**: UCLG senior officer



The speakers discussed the new urban agenda and the need to introduce elements of participatory governance in its development. They spoke of the link between development and participatory planning. UCLG spokesperson introduced the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and projected a [video](#) on Goal 16 developed in collaboration with the IOPD.



Group 5: "Citizen Participation through digital platforms, social networks and community radio" moderated by **Abdoulaye Timbo** mayor of Pikine (Senegal).

Fernando Pindado, Manager of the Area of Citizenship Rights, Participation and Transparency of the City of Barcelona



Mike Davies of the *International Alliance of Inhabitants* presented "[Smart Harare](#)" an online platform where neighbors can raise complaints with pictures of the incidence and geolocation to collaborate with the municipal government to improve the city. **Hassan Hmani** deputy mayor of Nanterre (Francia) reaffirmed that Nanterre is committed to participatory democracy. He also believes that we must take advantage of new technological tools as channels to bring citizens to

politics. **Will Derks** of the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy presented initiatives to support the consolidation of political plurality in young democracies

Fernando Pindado from the Barcelona City Council explained the commitment with citizen participation of the new municipal government of Barcelona, which has made an ambitious participatory process for the preparation of Municipal Action Plan which included the Digital Platform [Decidim Barcelona](#). **Dominique Ollivier**, president of the *Office de Consultation Publique de Montreal* (Montreal, Canada) explained how they have used a digital platform for the deliberative process on how to reduce pollution in the city. The online platform was also combined with meetings and face to face workshop. **Gilles Pradeau** explains a set of participatory tools that are based on digital platforms. [Here](#) you can find his presentation.

Group 6: "Citizenship education for participation and monitoring, and inclusion of a gender approach"

- **Andrés Falck**: Director of Consortium Local – Global (Spain)
- **Juan Tons**: Mayor of la Paz, Canelones (Uruguay)
- **Alba Doblaz**: Councilor of the city of Córdoba (Spain)
- **Moussa Ndiaye**: Mayor of Keur Baka (Senegal)
- **Jean Andrianaivo**: Mayor of Alakamisy Fenoarivo (Madagascar)

In this group were presented experiences of education through participatory practices, to educate in democratic and inclusive values. The inclusion of vulnerable groups in participatory process is also a challenge in our cities and communities.

IOPD Award "Best Practice in Citizen's Participation"

During the closing ceremony, the IOPD's General Secretariat, led by Barcelona City Council, presented the results of the 10th IOPD Good Practices Award. On this occasion, 36 cities and governments from 15 countries put themselves forward. **The winning city was Canoas** (Porto Alegre metropolitan area, Brazil) for its cross-cutting system of citizen participation, which includes participatory budgeting, sector and territorial councils, citizen meetings with the mayor and councillors, and other participatory tools.

Montreal (Quebec, Canada) was shortlisted for the award with a participatory process for reducing dependence on fossil fuels, which sought to find solutions through discussion on such aspects as transport, urban planning, the environment and economic activity.



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Another five cities received a special mention: **Ampasy** (Madagascar) for the participatory budget that redistributes the income from mining, the **Basque Housing Observatory** (Spain) for the participatory planning of housing policy, **Palmela** (Portugal) for the “I participate” project, **Plaine Commune** (France) for an innovative participatory project to assess the impact of some major infrastructure works on health and **Rumiñahui** (Ecuador) for its participation system.

IOPD General Assembly

The IOPD General Assembly, chaired by the Mayor of Matola and Chair of the Observatory, Calisto Cossa, and Fernando Pindado, on behalf of the IOPD General Secretariat, took place on



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5 May. Management reports were presented on the Presidency (Calisto Cossa), General Secretariat (Adrià Duarte), the African Regional Office (Bachir Kanouté) and the Latin American Regional Office (Rodrigo Rangel). They were followed by Dominique Ollivier, Head of the OCPM (Office of Public Consultation Montreal), who presented Montreal's bid to chair the organisation. This was accepted unanimously by the members present. The members then discussed the activities to come and the challenges and opportunities now facing the IOPD.



Launch of the National Participatory Budgeting Network

The fact that the annual presidency has been in the hands of Matola has meant that lots of Mozambican cities have become interested in participatory politics and signed up with the IOPD to get access to information and advice on governance and participatory policies. In turn, Matola has been working with Canoas (the Brazilian city that held the IOPD presidency in 2014) on citizen participation practices and management through a cooperation project between Brazil



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and Mozambique. One of the IOPD's goals is to be a network of cities that share models, tools and information on public policies relating to participation and governance.



So, to coordinate all the Mozambican municipalities, a National Seminar was held on the eve of the Conference, on 3 May, with all the mayors and municipal leaders present, to launch the Mozambican participatory budgeting network.