



UCLG
Committee

Social Inclusion
Participatory Democracy
and Human Rights

Municipalism, social movements and feminist approaches

Local government perspectives on how to advance the co-creation of cities and caring for the rights of residents

December 1, 15:00 – 17:00 CET (GMT +1)

[Link](#) for connexion through Zoom

Guiding questions for the session

- What trends are reshaping municipalism and how are they related to the links between local governments, social movements and social demands?
- How to uphold the full potential of co-created cities based on cooperation, which are inclusive and caring towards citizenship rights?
- What policy innovations from recent times could be highlighted in terms of participatory democracy, strengthening civil society initiatives or renewing the local government-residents relationship?
- How is feminist municipalism related with the shift towards a more horizontal governance and the promotion of participatory democracy?
- What role did feminist municipalism play in the construction of caring territories favoring democratic transformation and citizen participation.

Agenda of the session

- Introduction and framing by Amanda Fléty, UCLG-CSIPDHR (7 minutes)
- First panel: Focus on municipalism and social movements (50 minutes)
 - Gissela Chalá, Vice-Mayor of Quito
 - Carla Amtamann Fecci, Mayor of Valdivia
 - Mayra Mendoza, Mayor of Quilmes
 - Chloé Lebret, Councilor for Equality and Rights Equality of Grenoble

- Second panel: Focus on feminist approaches (50 minutes)
 - Janet Ågren, Councilor of Umeå
 - Odette N'Zy, Councilor of Cocody
 - Carolina Contreras, Councilor at Quilpué
 - Elisa Naud, Coordinator of Analysts at OCPM Montreal
 - Brigitte Tandonnet, President of the Bordeaux Metropole Sustainable Development Council and gynecological doctor
 - Gemma Altell, Feminist social psychologist. Founder of G360, Cartografies Humanes i Socials
- Wrap up and conclusions by Adrià Duarte: (10 minutes)

Context

This session will explore recent innovations and outcomes produced in the last decade, where local governments have led a wave of transformation through their interaction with social movements and urban struggles. Indeed, new mechanisms have been established to better represent residents' demands and expand the horizons of local democracy towards real co-creation of cities. Many of these innovations have been spearheaded by the feminist movement, which brought forward new approaches to caring and social organizing.

The session will look at how civil society and human rights defenders have strengthened their capacity to articulate political demands by residents and communities. Sometimes, this has occurred through partnership with local governments. In other cases, this social wave has taken a further step up within local government, establishing new municipal coalitions and alliances.

Participatory democracy policies have been key to reinforce this dialogue and advance in the co-creation of cities as common goods. Accordingly, this session will share concrete mechanisms developed to reinforce local government - civil society dialogue, as well as policies "opening up" institutions to direct participation, establishing new participatory democracy policies to this end.

This panel will pay attention to how the feminist movement represents a key building block of a better normality towards a renewed local democracy. This space for debate will allow for the convergence of local government strategies for the deployment of feminism and participatory democracy at the local level.

Finally, this session will also explore the right to the city and human rights concepts have been key to trigger social organizing around urban struggles (housing, habitat, water, environment...) and empower social organizations in their capacity to influence policy agendas. Local governments enshrined these concepts also to foster a new way to relate with residents; to better listen to their

needs and empower them to access rights; and to foster concrete transformation through rights-based policymaking.