



21^e CONFÉRENCE
OIDP
PASSER À L'ACTION !
VERS UN RENOUVEAU
DÉMOCRATIQUE
FACE À LA CRISE ÉCOLOGIQUE,
SANITAIRE ET SOCIALE



DU 7 AU 10
DÉC. 2022

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF IOPD

Grenoble, December 10, 2022

Adopted Resolutions:

- Adoption of the Grenoble Declaration
- Adoption of the 2023 Work Plan
- Selection of Valongo as the venue for the IOPD Conference in 2024

Attending Delegations:

- City of Grenoble / Presidency
- Grenoble Alpes Métropole
- Mayor's Office of Cocody / Co-presidency
- Municipality of Iztapalapa / Co-presidency
- Barcelona City Council / General Secretariat
- Valongo Municipality / Promoting Member
- Prefecture of Rio de Janeiro / Presidency 2023
- City of Sfax / Promoting Member
- Office of Public Consultation of Montreal / Promoting Member
- Municipal Prefecture of Belém
- Bogotá - District Institute of Participation and Community Action
- City of Bordeaux
- Municipal Chamber of Cascais
- City of Cotonou
- Government of the State of Jalisco
- City of Maputo
- City Council of Quito
- Municipal Prefecture of Salvador
- Municipality of São Paulo
- City of Sousse
- City of Tours
- United Cities and Local Governments General Secretariat
- IOPD Technical Secretariat
- IOPD Africa Secretariat

Observing Delegations:

- Municipality of Villa Alemana
- Legislative Assembly of Rio Grande do Sul

Attending Collaborators:

- Bios Policy A.C.
- Center for Social Studies of Coimbra
- Foundation Le Municipal
- Forum Barranquilla
- Office
- People Powered
- Gerson Almeida, Porto Alegre
- Alejandra Luévano, Mexico City

Opening Speeches

- The Mayor of Grenoble and President of IOPD, **Éric Piolle**, initiates the session emphasizing the significance of this platform for transparency and deliberation within an organization that revolves around democracy. He underlines the importance of organizing this conference and assembly within the context of the European Green Capital, highlighting the relevance of the political declaration being promoted and urges the rest of the network to embrace it.
- **Marc Serra**, Councilor for Citizen Participation of Barcelona and General Secretary of IOPD, expresses gratitude and commends Grenoble's efforts in arranging this conference. He recalls Barcelona's role and commitment to IOPD and its association with UCLG, yet argues for a more diverse leadership within IOPD, encouraging other cities to assume a more significant role in the network's development. He also stresses the need to reinforce the organization of the network in order to achieve the set objectives.
- **Emilia Saiz**, Secretary General of UCLG, points out that local and global affairs cannot be separated, emphasizing the necessity for local leaders to be involved in global issues. She recalls that the municipalist movement has been in existence for more than 100 years, surpassing the age of the United Nations, and highlights the need to focus on governance structures. IOPD serves as one of these mechanisms for reflection and work towards effective governance, pioneering the safeguarding of democracy and the advancement of new ideas to address existing democratic deficits. It is crucial, as IOPD does, to link discussions on democracy with other aspects such as equality, climate action, and above all, the restoration of trust and the fight against misinformation.

Management Reports

- I Presidency: Mayor of Grenoble, **Eric Piolle**, along with **Diego Fernandez**, Director of Local Democracy, present the work carried out by their city in successfully hosting and organizing the conference. They highlight the extensive preparatory work with other associations and cities in France to co-create the program.
- II Technical Secretariat: **Adrià Duarte**, the coordinator of the technical secretariat, explains the main actions undertaken in 2022, including conferences, awards, website maintenance, monthly newsletters, new experiences, and participation in other activities. He refers to the management report shared in writing. Secretary-General **Marc Serra** encourages other members to make financial contributions to strengthen the network's work.
 - **Franck Kinninvo**, Cotonou, Le Municipal Foundation: Regarding the award, he proposes that the jury should hold more weight than the open vote, as it disadvantages smaller cities and territories.
 - **Adrià Duarte** clarifies the award selection system (in 2022): an open vote with all nominations, those participating in the vote must support 5 proposals, and the jury has the possibility to reinstate some of the eliminated ones. The finalists are evaluated by the jury. While acknowledging the potential injustice of the open vote, it allows for the dissemination of practices. A more effective filtering model for the first phase should be considered if there are numerous nominations.
 - **Gabriela Chabbouh**, São Paulo, suggests translating the ParticipateIOPD platform into Portuguese to facilitate the involvement of Portuguese speakers.
 - **Emilia Saiz** points out that given our operational budgets, member contributions can support translations. For example, in UCLG, we have 3 working languages for the secretariat, but up to 10 languages are used because members provide translations: Turkish, Russian, Arabic, Chinese, etc. Members can assist by translating some of the materials.
 - **Alexander Reina**, Director of the District Institute of Participation of Bogotá, expresses willingness to contribute to IOPD but, unable to make a financial transfer, proposes to support with a team member, especially for Spanish communication.
- III: IOPD Africa: **Bachir Kanouté**, Coordinator of IOPD Africa, presents the main actions of IOPD Africa and the plans for 2023. Since its launch in Africa in 2012, IOPD has been growing in the number of represented cities and countries. IOPD will support territories, thematic discussions, a best practices award at the Senegal level, and training for elected officials and experts. In 2023, Maputo will host the African Forum on Participatory Democracy. IOPD Africa has its political organization, with the mayor of Maputo as the president, and each sub-region has its representative, which was renewed in February 2012. They are involved in creating a development index to measure the quality of democracy and are seeking to expand their reach through pilot experiences and scaling strategies.

- Rio de Janeiro: **Jean Caris**, Deputy Secretary for Planning and Modernization. Presents the main participation actions in Rio de Janeiro, suggested themes for next year's conference, and logistical details of the event.

Emphasizes the importance of diversity, inclusion, and transparency in public management. Highlights programs such as "Qualified Diversity" and the "Mapa da Mulher Carioca." Advocates for an open and legitimate agenda based on access to information, and discusses the "Data Lake" project that compiles information from all municipal secretariats.

Explains that the IOPD event in 2023 will take place in October or November, but the exact date has not yet been confirmed. States they are working on collectively constructing the agenda through a call for parallel events. Also highlights Rio de Janeiro's capacity to host international events.
- **Adrià Duarte (TS)** encourages the entire network to fully engage in the event, participate, and help create the program and dialogues. Acknowledges Rio's leadership but emphasizes that the entire network should participate in this process and continue discussions on new topics on the agenda. Congratulates again and looks forward to working to make this conference in Rio a success.
- **Marc Serra (GS)** "We are very pleased with the proposal and the candidacy. I believe we have started very well, and it is appropriate that a clear framework of diversity, inclusion, and transparency has been established conceptually."
- **Annaelle Schaller**, Deputy to the Mayor of Tours, congratulates Rio de Janeiro on its proposal and selection as the venue for the next conference. Suggests addressing the issue of fake news and economic and pressure obstacles in democracy in a workshop or discussion during the event. Expresses regret for not being able to attend the conference due to concerns about the carbon footprint.
- **Ana Cristina Wanzeler** (São Paulo City Council) "Congratulations to the Secretary of Rio de Janeiro. Offer of collaboration from São Paulo in organizing events and coordinating agendas."
- **Mohamed Wajdi Aydi**, Vice Mayor of Sfax, highlights the importance of not forgetting cities experiencing difficult conditions, such as cities under occupation or in situations of war. Calls for considering the political and social context of cities worldwide, especially in regions with conflicts and authoritarian regimes.
- **Laura Carneiro**, Councilor, Rio de Janeiro City Council, emphasizes the beauty and challenges of Rio de Janeiro. Points out the importance of inclusion and how it is connected to environmental and vulnerability issues. Also mentions examples of inclusive programs in Rio de Janeiro, such as the shelter for the LGBT community and the food program for those in need.

Work plan

- **Adrià Duarte (TS)** explains that the work plan should:
 - Define thematic axes and priorities for the upcoming year aligned with the event in Rio de Janeiro.
 - Propose the content of webinars and formal activities to address specific topics, such as gender and democracy.
 - Discuss the historical analysis of past award nominations and consideration of indicators for experiences such as participatory budgets, among others.
- **Nelson Dias**, Office and Network of Participatory Autarchies of Portugal

Expresses the desire to strengthen the relationship with IOPD and work on projects and activities being developed in Portugal. Proposes expanding and disseminating the work already done from Portugal, including the transformation of the quality charter of participatory budgets into measurable indicators. Also shares the intention to socialize and share experiences and best practices with IOPD members.

- **Joyce Trindade**, Secretary for Women's Affairs of the Rio de Janeiro City Council

Proposes to hold three webinars, one of them in March, focusing on International Women's Day on March 8.

Emphasizes the importance of discussing gender issues and democracy strategies that highlight the role of women in the discourse.

Suggests creating participatory material that shares experiences and challenges to foster understanding and collaboration among cities.

Suggests holding a pre-event in March in Rio de Janeiro with women to address these issues.

- **Rosa Fernandes**, Councilor of Rio de Janeiro

Commits the Rio de Janeiro Chamber (Legislative Assembly) to collaborate with the city government in organizing the event and presenting their participatory work in the city's budget.

Acknowledges the challenges and mistakes that may arise along the way but with a clear dedication to work for the benefit of the city and its community.

- **Bachir Kanouté**, IOPD Africa

There is a working group on the index of participatory democracy quality, so I believe it would be good to work together to avoid having two different approaches and instead integrate the work to make it a joint effort. The group has been working for several months and has made significant progress, so it would be beneficial if we could collaborate to have a single index.

- **Susana Gomes**, Valongo

Proposal to create a permanent working group on green participatory budgets in IOPD with the aim of promoting an international agenda on participatory budgets and climate change.

Drafting a policy document based on the European caravan for the greenest cities through participatory budgets, to influence national and international agendas on the topic of participation.

Advocacy before the European Parliament for the creation of conditions that make participatory budgets greener, through the approval of the European Charter for Greener Participation and the establishment of a European fund for Greener Participation.

- **Marc Serra, Barcelona**

Barcelona's participation in the European caravan for green participatory budgets, which allowed for an innovative way of working and decentralized collaboration among different cities.

Support for the creation of a working group on green participatory budgets and Barcelona's availability to participate in this group.

Proposal to hold a European caravan on other democratic innovation initiatives, such as citizen assemblies, and Barcelona's willingness to organize and finance a local stop in Barcelona.

Suggestion to share the annual "Decidim Fest" congress, which focuses on participation and democratic innovation, with IOPD to organize a session that allows for the exchange of digital participation content.

- **São Paulo City Council**

Proposal to collaborate in organizing webinars related to the topics proposed by Rio, such as transparency, diversity, and inclusion.

Suggests creating working groups for each project or action, with São Paulo City's readiness to participate in the award working group and in the analysis of previous award experiences.

Their proposal includes organizing a webinar in June on transparency, with the participation of one or two IOPD members to facilitate coordination.

- **Imen Ouardani, Ville de Sousse, Tunisia**

Proposes adding a third priority theme related to youth, considering their importance as future generations, especially in the African continent, where populations tend to be young.

Stresses the need to involve this generation to ensure the continuity of work and to train future leaders in participatory democracy.

The second proposal focuses on replicating best practices in local territories, adapting them to the specific national context. Suggests creating a document that captures these best practices and analyzes what worked and what didn't, with the aim of facilitating their replication in different territories.

- **Diego Fernández, Grenoble**

Proposes three possible opportunities to address the themes of climate assemblies and green participatory budgets in different events and locations.

- Firstly, suggests working during the Biennale des Villes en Transition in Grenoble, which will take place in June 2023, as one of the occasions to address these issues.
 - Secondly, proposes establishing a collaboration with the Rencontres Européennes de la Participation in Rouen in the spring. Additionally, suggests the possibility of it being one of the stops of the caravan, as proposed by Barcelona, on climate assemblies.
 - Finally, suggests working in partnership with the réseau national des budgets participatifs, which organizes annual meetings in Bordeaux, before the IOPD conference in Rio in autumn. Emphasizes the importance of collaborating with other cities and expanding networks.
- **Alex Reina**, Director General of the District Institute of Participation and Community Action of Bogotá (IDPAC)

Reiterates the idea that the international participatory budget seminar be supported by the IOPD network as another activity for the next year.

Emphasizes the importance of sharing topics related to green participatory budgets, caravans, and assemblies in his country to position this policy in his city.

Expresses gratitude to the mayor and the team for the support and hospitality received during his stay and shows willingness to continue collaborating and supporting the conference in his region.

- **Amira Khammassi-Mesona**

Proposes collectively reflecting and mobilizing all IOPD members to analyze the cases of participatory budgets in Porto Alegre and Rio de Janeiro, with the aim of issuing recommendations to strengthen participatory democracy in Brazil.

Her second proposal is to coordinate with the municipalities in the Drôme department in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region to present IOPD activities and promote participatory democracy, as well as to establish regional coordination committees for the monitoring and evaluation of participatory democracy projects.

- **Rocío Lombera**, Iztapalapa City Council

Acknowledgment and gratitude for the efforts of the city of Grenoble for the conference.

Emphasis on the importance of continuing to work on relevant thematic axes, such as food sovereignty and the fight against discrimination.

Proposal to organize content into main themes to address democracy in a cross-cutting manner across all topics.

Willingness to collaborate in the dissemination and success of the Rio conference, both in Latin America and in Mexico and other countries in the region.

- **Nadim Tadjine**, OCPM Montréal

The proposal to create more moments of meeting and sharing between conferences.

The idea of developing collective strategies to create connections between participants before, during, and after the conferences.

The suggestion to implement initiatives similar to Brain Date to optimize the time and experience of participants traveling from afar.

Political declaration

- **Éric Piolle**, Grenoble

Proposal to create more moments for meetings and sharing between conferences, even before these events.

Development of collective strategies to establish connections among participants during and after the conferences.

Emphasis on the importance of continuing meaningful discussions and debates that arise during the event.

Division of a declaration into three parts, related to commitments to strengthen democratic practices, defense strategies, and seeking funding for the implementation of work plans.

- **Adrià Duarte**

Mention of document distribution, as well as the possibility of accessing the text of the declaration online.

Thanks Valongo for assisting with the Portuguese translation and the need to review the English and Spanish versions due to the urgency of translation.

Reference to proposals for amendments and Barcelona's intervention to make a small amendment.

- **Marc Serra**, Barcelona

Recognition of the balance between diversity and plurality within the organization.

Highlighting the importance of protecting local elected officials from threats and violence stemming from democratic distrust and anti-parliamentarianism.

Proposal to amend point six to address the issue of fake news and the interference of economic and judicial powers.

Suggestion for an exhaustive debate on these issues at the upcoming event in Rio regarding the theme of transparency.

- **Ville de Sfax**

Consideration of the appropriate use of terms and officially acceptable terminology in the context of the discussion.

Proposal to expand the understanding of the "dirty war" to encompass not only the economic sphere but also violations of freedoms and security, whether physical or direct and indirect.

- **Marc Serra**, Barcelona

Explanation of the ambiguity of the term "dirty war" and the need to find more precise and suitable terminology to describe judicial persecution and other questionable practices. Proposes using terms such as "malicious judicial persecution" or "judicial malpractice" to more accurately describe the actions being discussed.

- **Ville de Sfax**

The suggestion of using the term "attack of any kind" to encompass all possible threats and restrictions faced by some local officials due to military conflicts or physical constraints.

The importance of defending local officials and institutions of local democracy against all forms of threats and restrictions.

- **Isabelle Beaulieu**, President of OCPM Montréal

The difficulty of justifying the use of the phrase "attack of any kind" in a large joint declaration from several countries.

The issue of determining what constitutes a "dirty threat" and who has the authority to make that decision.

The question of whether elected officials should be protected more or if citizens mobilizing legal mechanisms in the event of disputes with local officials should be protected.

- **Nelson Dias**, Office and Network of Participatory Autarchies of Portugal

The proposal to show solidarity with the Ukrainian people and support Ukraine in restoring their democratic participation forms that have been suspended due to the war imposed by a totalitarian regime. (Point 6, in this case 1.9 on Ukraine)

- **Adrià Duarte**

The need to consider the sensitivity of various conflicts worldwide during the conference.

The importance of treating all conflicts fairly and taking into account the diversity of perspectives and contexts.

The importance of addressing topics with empathy and understanding, recognizing the impact of words and actions on various communities and regions.

- **Rio de Janeiro**

While concerns and issues are diverse worldwide, they recognize that the situation in Ukraine needs a prioritized approach due to the severity and urgency of the current crisis.

- **Nelly Ouassenan**, Deputy Mayor of Cocody

The importance of avoiding sensitive terms to maintain cohesion in the assembly.

The suggestion to use the term "minority" instead of "LGBTQ+" to avoid potential tensions and ensure the inclusion of all opinions.

Consideration of the diversity of perspectives and sensitivities within the group and the need to draft the declaration in a way that respectfully reflects this diversity.

- **Isabelle Beaulieu**, President of OCPM Montréal

Concern about point 4 in the Defense of Rights section of the declaration, which suggests "reforming parliamentary bodies."

The need to reflect on and further discuss the implications of this proposal, as it could have a significant impact on the direction and focus of the IOPD.

- **Bachir Kanouté**, IOPD Africa Coordinator

Support for the proposal from the co-presidency and the point from Côte d'Ivoire on the issue of LGBTQ+ individuals, suggesting that this issue can be more appropriately addressed within the "minorities" category.

The suggestion to merge points 3 and 4 in the declaration as both deal with topics related to minorities such as women, youth, and the elderly, which could make it more inclusive and acceptable for the different contexts in which it is worked.

The proposal to broaden the focus in point 6 of the Defense section, acknowledging that conflicts are not limited only to Ukraine, and advocating for solidarity with all parts of the world experiencing conflicts and their repercussions on the population.

- **Rio de Janeiro**

The discrepancy with the text in point 3, expressing the need for a more solid wording to pressure countries to act on important issues, such as the participation of women and LGBT people, as these issues are real problems in many countries and it is crucial to address them effectively.

The importance of addressing these issues effectively and directly in the declaration, as the mention of "minorities" is already present, but the specific challenges faced by gender minorities in participatory democracy channels should be highlighted.

- **Eric Piolle**, Mayor of Grenoble

The importance of not focusing solely on the conflict in Ukraine, and recognizing that geopolitical tensions and armed conflicts are global issues that affect various regions and continents worldwide.

Agreement with the suggestion to intensify democratic representation, and the opinion that each country may have its own path to reform, but the overall goal should be to make institutions more representative and democratic.

Recognition of the importance of strengthening the rights of minorities and emphasis on the need to advance gender equality and reduce discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community.

- **Tiphaine Ardouin**, Deputy for Permanent Democracy, Bordeaux

The importance of including indigenous communities in point 3 of the commitments, as it is important to acknowledge their presence along with other populations mentioned in the point.

Reflection on the inclusion of the term "gender minorities" as a broad way to encompass all LGBTQ+ individuals, recognizing diversity and different realities in different international contexts.

Support for finding a more acceptable term to address the issue of institutional reform, acknowledging that this could facilitate a broader consensus among participants.

Recognition that the recent focus in Europe on armed conflicts should not limit the discussion solely to the conflict in Ukraine, as it is crucial to address conflicts in various parts of the world equitably and comprehensively.

- **Nelly Ouassenan**, Cocody

The importance of advocating for the participation and power of all individuals, regardless of their sexual orientation, and the need to integrate this idea into the broader context of human rights.

The suggestion to use a more inclusive and compassionate term, such as "the rights of the most vulnerable," proposed by Mayor Éric Piolle, which would more holistically encompass the protection of the rights of all individuals who may face situations of vulnerability.

Concern that the use of specific terms may generate unnecessary sensitivities and hinder the broader discussion on participation and human rights.

A call to overcome potential sensitivities and focus on the overall vision and promotion of human rights as a whole, recognizing the importance of respecting the freedom and dignity of all individuals.

- **Montreal**

The importance of using inclusive and understandable language for all populations, especially when promoting participatory democracy in contexts where this practice is still under development.

Emphasis on the need to avoid terms that could alienate certain communities or be perceived as exclusionary, as this could hinder efforts to foster broader and more engaged participation in democratic processes.

Request to carefully consider the language used in the declaration to ensure that it is receptive and respectful of the diverse realities and sensitivities of local communities worldwide.

- **Eric Piolle**, Grenoble

Reference to countries' participation in the UN and the progress the organization has made in terms of LGBTQ+ rights by using specific terminology.

Argument that, given the lower status of organizations compared to the UN, it should not be necessary to soften or modify the language used, especially when it aligns with terms and principles already used by a larger international organization.

- **Franck Kinninvo**, Cotonou

The importance of adapting the language used in international declarations to be inclusive and acceptable in all regions, considering the legal and cultural diversity of different countries and territorial communities.

The suggestion to replace terms that could be problematic in certain regions, especially those that may not have legal or cultural relevance in certain contexts, with more inclusive and unifying words that allow for the adoption of the declaration by a wider range of countries and cities.

- **Torcato Ferreira**, Valongo

Importance of the inclusion of all minorities in the charter: emphasis on the need to maintain an inclusive approach in drafting the charter, highlighting the importance of recognizing and supporting all minorities, including women and the LGBTQ+ community.

Warning about possible backtracking: concerns were expressed that the removal of specific references to minority groups could be interpreted as a step back from the advances made in recent decades for the recognition of the rights of these communities.

While the existence of diverse concerns and priorities among the represented countries was recognized, the importance of maintaining a central focus on the protection and promotion of minority rights in the charter under discussion was emphasized.

The question of how discrepancies in the drafting of the charter will be resolved was raised, suggesting the possibility of making decisions through a vote and considering the next steps to overcome the disagreements present in the assembly.

- **Isabel Xavier**, Cascais

Opposition to the removal of the reference to the LGBT community in the document, arguing that it is important to address challenges even if they cause discomfort.

Highlights that growth involves facing and overcoming discomfort, and that these changes are necessary for the progress and evolution of society.

Raises the question of how to resolve this situation and whether the issue will be discussed again in the future.

- **Marc Serra**,

- *As Secretary-General of IOPD, he expresses:*

The importance of recognizing the existence and rights of the LGBTI collective in the document, considering the different legal realities in the world.

Mentions examples of struggles for LGBTI rights in Europe, highlighting that recognition does not imply specifying rights, but rather affirming their citizenship.

Recalls IOPD's mission to be a progressive organization that addresses and resolves pending issues in different countries.

Suggests the possibility of voting on the amendment individually if consensus is not reached, emphasizing the importance of including the recognition of the LGBTI collective in the document.

- *On behalf of Barcelona, he expresses:*

Search for consensus for the approval of the declaration: Proposals to include the term LGBTI to seek consensus.

Suggestion to ask those who are familiar with the realities of their countries to make proposals on the vocabulary that would allow for the inclusion of this collective.

- **Cocody**

Discussion about the use of the term "minority" or "marginalized group" as an alternative to the term "LGBTI" to achieve consensus in the declaration.

Importance of addressing the situation of displaced persons, as well as supporting efforts in countries affected by conflicts.

Emphasis on the need to find an inclusive term that encompasses all people and vulnerable groups, reflecting their marginalized and vulnerable status in various contexts.

- **Adrià Duarte**

After intense debate about the inclusion or exclusion of the term LGBTI in the declaration, the Coordinator of the Technical Secretariat of IOPD presented a proposal that was drafted in line with the participants' stance and was approved by consensus: *"We are committed to systematically improving the presence, place, and power of the participation of women, gender minorities, and indigenous communities in our mechanisms of participatory democracy. Collectively, we aspire to achieve parity and equality by 2030 in countries where the rights of LGBTQI+ individuals are recognized. We seek to make this goal effective and follow the recommendations of the United Nations in these areas, including countries where these rights are not recognized."*

Following this, other points of the declaration were reviewed:

- **Annaelle Schaller**, Deputy to the Mayor of Tours

Inclusion of persons with disabilities and disadvantaged individuals in point 5 of the declaration.

- **Montreal**

Importance of not including indigenous peoples in the same category as persons with disabilities, emphasizing that the indigenous community should be considered differently in point 3.

The discussion then moved to the review of point 6 - the commitment to make the principle that ecological transition will only occur if climate justice is real, and point 7 - committing to take the message of the environment and planet protection as far and as strongly as possible.

- **Bachir Kanouté**, IOPD Africa

Inclusion of different groups in point 5: displaced persons, persons with disabilities, and the most disadvantaged.

- **Nelson Dias**, Office and Network of Participatory Autarchies of Portugal

Recovery of participatory democracy processes in territories affected by armed conflicts. The creation of a new point (point 8) is mentioned to reflect this commitment: *"We commit to support the recovery of participatory democracy processes in territories where these initiatives have been suspended due to armed conflict imposition."*

- **Franck Kinninvo**, Cotonou

Proposes the inclusion of an additional point (possibly point 9) on the issue of food sovereignty. The importance of territories and cities in the current context is highlighted, especially in relation to the growing food insecurity and resulting fragility. It is proposed that democratic processes can serve as a vehicle to promote these objectives.

- **OCPM Montreal**

Highlights the importance of focusing on participatory democracy and access to education in the final declaration of the discussions, rather than addressing other issues such as food security in the final declaration.

The importance of education in fostering citizen engagement is recognized, and the inclusion of access to education, especially for girls and women, is suggested as a relevant point within the context of participatory democracy.

- **Éric Piolle**, Grenoble

Considers food as a common good and not simply as a commodity and advocates for a renewed governance adapted to the territories to establish authentic food democracy in communities.

- **Rocio Lombera**, Iztapalapa

Emphasizes her commitment to defend essential commons for democracy, such as food, health, and education, and emphasizing that these should not be treated as mere commodities or privatized.

- **Montreal**

Emphasizes that this approach is positive and suggests that crucial aspects are at stake that should be considered regarding food.

- **Adrià Duarte**

Reads the drafted proposal from this debate: *"We commit to consider food and water as a common good that needs renewed governance adapted to the territory forming the basis of food democracy in communities."*

- **Éric Piolle, Grenoble**

Suggests that the Grenoble declaration is not meant to be a recreation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but rather a reflection of the discussions and work done so far, as well as a link to the perspectives raised in Rio and Action Plan 23.

Emphasizes the importance of stopping the addition of more content to the document, as it could make it excessively long and dilute its main focus.

Also acknowledges that, despite numerous meetings and debates, it was not intended to address the total complexity of the world, although they continue to strive to do so in the future.

After this, the discussion revolves around the need to change and strengthen parliamentary bodies rather than simply reforming them. It is considered important to drive changes to ensure more effective representation of the people in the government. Decentralization is debated as a mechanism to strengthen local autonomy, with special attention to appropriate resource allocation for local authorities. Concern is raised about the influence of economic actors in the political sphere, and the use of the term "illegitimate interference" is proposed to address this issue. It is agreed to move towards the adoption of the document, with the intention of continuing to discuss these issues in greater depth at a forthcoming session in Rio.

Adoption of the Declaration

The Grenoble declaration was adopted after a long debate. There were no dissenting voices and it was adopted unanimously by the IOPD General Assembly. The presentation of the sole candidature for the 2024 presidency was mentioned, followed by the presentation of Cotonou, which withdrew from the race but proposed to organise the event in 2025 in conjunction with the 2024 conference. A procedural question is raised regarding Cotonou's 2025 bid. The nomination of Valongo to host the conference in 2024 was then formalised. Finally, the general assembly closed with discussions on the drafting of the report and declaration, and the scheduling of the lunch and closing ceremony. Everyone is thanked for their participation in this democratic and transparent exercise.