

Workshop 7. Closing of The Fortnight: Charter for the Right to the City

THE FORTNIGHT
Tunisia-Canada
Municipal Exchanges
May 17-28, 2021



Objectives

Discuss the Charter for the Right to the City as a tool for inclusion and sustainable development, share concrete examples of its application, and take stock of some of the highlights of the Fortnight.

Charter for the Right to the City

The Charter is based on "the individual and collective rights of all the inhabitants, where the city's territory and surrounding areas are considered spaces to exercise and guarantee rights." Cities are seen as places of power and opportunity.

The Charter is linked to three global processes: urbanization, globalization, and decentralization.

The intention is to put people at the center of development. It is a way of seeing and doing to respond to current issues. The Charter is based on these elements:

- ⇒ Renew the social pact at the local level
- ⇒ Put the inhabitants and their needs back at the heart of the urban fabric
- ⇒ Analyze local and global issues to find specific solutions
- ⇒ Promote and protect universal human rights for the entire population.



Some concrete examples of municipalities that have used the Charter to guide their initiatives are:

- ⇒ **Pichincha, Ecuador:** To promote sustainable cities, setting up solidarity baskets with quality products in working-class neighborhoods. This initiative contributes to supporting the farmers and local consumption and provides a service to a disadvantaged population.
- ⇒ **Barcelona, Spain:** Campaigns against Islamophobia. Health services offered to everyone, regardless of legal status or nationality, in a region with a large immigrant population.
- ⇒ **Naples, Italy:** Water is considered a common good, and the municipality ensures that affordable quality water is available to all people.

Closing Event

Cities apply the Charter to their local issues. It is a process, a way of doing and analyzing, of cooperating with the people on the basis of the priorities they have identified. The Charter is used, for example, to discuss issues related to security and access to housing. The Charter is ten years old, and the **United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)** has set up a consultation process on the interaction between human rights and local issues.

The **National Federation of Tunisian Communes (FNCT)** is working on the development of a Tunisian Charter for the Right to the City. With the decentralization process underway, the FNCT wishes to contribute to a new model of local development. In Tunisia, rights are enshrined in the Constitution, so it is a matter of implementing them at the local level. The question of the right to the city is beginning to gain ground. The FNCT does not want the communes to be considered only as administrative centers. The right to the city should allow the recognition of the authority of municipalities in the development and adoption of public policies. CILG and FCM, through the IMLP, support this initiative, as well as the Tunisian Association of Urbanists.

Several Tunisian municipalities are already drawing inspiration from the Charter to implement participatory processes, such as in the municipality of **Sfax** where there was a participatory process to prioritize municipal projects. In the municipality of **L'Ariana**, the municipal administration has set up new participation mechanisms, so that the population can give its opinion and its vision on cultural and educational projects to include in the annual investment plan. The municipality also prepared its first participatory budget.



Conclusions

The Fortnight was filled with rich discussions and numerous exchanges between the two countries. Despite the cultural differences, there are many similarities and common challenges, such as the place of women in the public sphere. Among the highlights was the important role of women's associations and networks. There are several avenues of collaboration that can be deepened between countries, such as public participation and inclusive governance, the development of inclusive public spaces, and violence against women involved in politics. There is also opportunity to have a virtual place to share reference documents and examples of good practices. There is a great interest in continuing the discussions in a less formal setting and on an ongoing basis.



Additional Resources



[Workshop recording](#)

[Presentation on the Charter for the Right to the City](#)

[World Charter for the Right to the City](#)