

"From Intentions to Commitments: Towards the Effective and Sustainable Implementation of Human Rights "

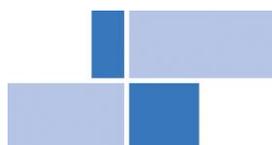
OUTCOME DOCUMENT

of Human Rights Go Local: What Works - Academy and Conference on Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels 2022, 1-8 February 2022.

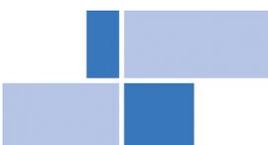
8 February 2022

We, the participants of the second Academy and Conference on Human Rights at the Local and Regional Levels,

- a. recalling that the obligations stemming from international human rights treaties are a shared responsibility of all tiers of government given in a State,
- b. recalling the local governments' obligation to comply with the international human rights norms, standards, and principles within their local competences, giving due account to the principles of non-discrimination, anti-racism, equality, including gender equality, and equity while acknowledging the significant contribution local governments can make to respect, protect, and fulfil human rights at national and international level,
- c. acknowledging that explicit commitments by local governments to human rights have a strong guiding power and clarify the position of local and regional authorities and their human rights policy and programmatic objectives,
- d. acknowledging that explicit commitments by local governments to human rights help mobilise local actors, including the local administration, civil society, academia, as well as the people concerned towards common goals,
- e. acknowledging that human rights-based approaches in local governments' work and decision-making processes are a practical and effective way to ensure that human rights obligations are respected, with special attention to people in vulnerable situations,
- f. acknowledging that local governments' commitments to human rights and successful implementation therein are a source of stability contributing to the continuity and sustainability of local policies, and help increase the trust in authorities and prevent social unrest,

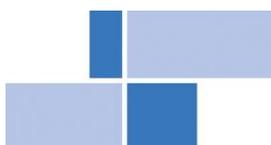


- g. stressing that local commitments to human rights enhance the position of local governments as leaders of positive and sustainable change in societies, especially the protection of the rights of people in situations of vulnerability,
- h. acknowledging that commitments to human rights at the local level may take various forms including charters, ordinances, or declarations, wherein the language used clearly articulates the populations and rights which these commitments seek to address,
- i. acknowledging the support provided by organisations and actors to local government to spell out and enact human rights commitments, such as the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the World Organization of United Cities and Local Governments,
- j. acknowledging that local governments worldwide who have already clearly expressed their human rights commitments are a source of inspiration for other local governments,
- k. bearing in mind the local governments' commitments to the Paris Agreement 2015, as well as the 2030 Agenda and its call to leave no one behind and to work with and for the next generations,
- l. acknowledging that responses to human rights challenges and the specifics of human rights commitments vary at the local level and require a tailored approach,
- m. intending to foster the exchange between current and future generations of human rights experts and to include the interests and views of young people in the considerations made by local governments through inclusive and participatory processes,
- n. convinced that education and research on human rights at the local level provides a basis for evidence-based policies and supports local governments to carve out tailored and sustainable solutions to human rights issues at the local level,
- o. acknowledging that commitments to human rights at the local level are a key channel for local governments to engage in national, regional, and international human rights fora,
- p. convinced that the emerging frameworks of commitments to human rights at the local level and concepts such as Human Rights Cities should be flexible enough to accommodate existing differences and approaches in expressing commitments to human rights,
- q. affirming that a multi-level governance approach can be supportive in developing, adopting, and implementing commitments to human rights at the local level,
- r. intending to increase the collaboration between existing efforts of local governments worldwide to promote and protect human rights in a spirit of global solidarity,



encourage local level governments worldwide to

1. make an explicit commitment substantiating how human rights norms, principles and standards including non-discrimination, anti-racism, equality, including gender equality, and equity, with an emphasis on leaving no one behind, shall inform their laws, policies, and programmes within their competences and in view of the local context,
2. build on research on human rights at the local level to promote an effective and sustainable commitment for human rights that is tailored to the local legal and societal context,
3. seek inspiration from other actors at local, national, regional and international level on how to elaborate the commitment and take action to bring it to life, including at the community level where their ownership and engagement will be enhanced,
4. link up with, reach out to and support civil society, academia, National Human Rights Institutions, the next generation of human rights experts, community leaders, and other relevant actors, as well as other local governments, in a spirit of collaboration and cooperation to operationalise the human rights commitment,
5. strengthen youth engagement, participation, and advocacy in the development of the commitment and in local actions at all stages of the policy cycle to ensure the due consideration of the next generation's views and perspectives and train the local governments' future leadership in human rights, including on intersectional, inter-cultural, and intergenerational approaches to human rights,
6. establish coherence between the local commitment to human rights and action plans and policies existing on the regional and national level in the respective State, seek to ensure that the perspectives of the local level are reflected in such action plans and policies and claim for regional and national incentives and support for local human rights initiatives,
7. state clearly the purpose and objectives of the commitment to human rights at the local level and undertake all efforts to include substantive, procedural, and institutional commitments, paying due attention to effective redress mechanisms,
8. make sure that the commitment addresses the local government in at least one of its functions as democratic institution, rule-maker, service provider, employer, economic actor, as well as implementer of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda, and make all efforts to duly reflect the commitment in the respective public procurement procedures and in budgeting,
9. publicise and disseminate the document, decision, or declaration expressing the local government's commitment to the norms, principles, and standards laid down within the national and international human rights framework,
10. ensure the accessibility of culturally relevant human rights education settings, formats, and materials to make the human rights obligations and the commitment of the local duty bearers known for all rights holders, in particular for the local civil society and people in situations of vulnerability,



11. take concrete action to implement the commitment and incorporate human rights-based approaches into the local governments' operations, as informed by civic and youth engagement, and academic research, and provide training programs on the human rights-based approach for local government staff,
12. include in the commitment processes and procedures for empowering and supporting all actors in society to ensure their meaningful participation in decision-making,
13. include in the commitment an articulated framework to measure and review the achievements made,
14. build local, regional, national, and international alliances and support global solidarity for the local protection and promotion of human rights, join established networks, and seek exchange with peers, regional, national, and international actors and organisations, as well as with civil society, the next generation, and researchers on how to live up to the commitment.

