

2014 World Human Rights Cities Forum

Towards a Global Alliance of Human Rights Cities for All

**15-18 May 2014
Gwangju, Republic of Korea**

We, participants of the 2014 World Human Rights Cities Forum (WHRCF) held on 15-18 May 2014 on the occasion of the 34th anniversary of the May 18th Democratic Uprising (the Gwangju Democratization Movement) in 1980,

- 1) Expressing our deep condolences and solidarity to all the victims and their family members of the Sewol Ferry tragedy on 16 April 2014,
- 2) Reaffirming our commitments to the vision of a human rights city as adopted at the Gwangju WHRCF in May 2011 and 2012,
- 3) Bearing in mind the commitments contained in the Final Statement of the WHRCF 2013,
- 4) Bearing in mind that the WHRCF is an international multi-stakeholders forum linked to other international bodies and processes,
- 5) Reaffirming our commitment to the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City adopted in Florence, Italy on 11 December 2011 by the governing World Council of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG),
- 6) Affirming our commitment to participate in the review process of the World Charter on the Right to the City (2005),
- 7) Welcoming the outcomes of the international workshops on the right to the city held in Mexico City (October 2013) and Medellin (April 2014), and calling for a broad participation in the international meeting on the right to the city in Sao Paulo, Brazil on 12 to 14 November 2014,
- 8) Welcoming the outcomes of the III World Forum of Peripheral Local Authorities (FALP) “Rights and Democracy for Cohesive and Sustainable Metropolises” (June 2013) held in Canoas/RS, Brazil,
- 9) Welcoming the UN Human Rights Council resolution on local government and human rights (A/HRC/RES/24/2) adopted on 27 Sept. 2013,
- 10) Recognizing the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda as an opportunity to advocate a human rights-based approach to urban issues,
- 11) Recognizing the 3rd UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (HABITAT III) in 2016 as an important process for engagement to advocate the right to the city as well as the human rights city in the new urban agenda,
- 12) Recognizing the leadership role played by Gwangju in promoting the vision of human rights city in Korea and abroad,
- 13) Recognizing the further progress made in Gwangju including a Human Rights Village and Human Rights Map following the creation of a Human Rights Ombudsman, Human Rights Charter, Human Rights Indicators and human rights office,
- 14) Welcoming the production of the first White Paper on the Human Rights Cities in Korea,
- 15) Recognizing the valuable contribution of the Expert Workshop on Local Government and Human Rights

held in Gwangju on 15 May 2014 for the input to the report to be prepared by the UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee,

- 16) Appreciating the outcomes of the thematic workshops on state violence and human rights, environment, disability, gender, children & youth, and the elderly in the context of building a human rights city,
- 17) Welcoming the adoption of the Gwangju Guiding Principles for a Human Rights City on 17 May 2014 as a common tool for the implementation of the vision of human rights city,
- 18) Expressing our deep appreciation to the Gwangju Metropolitan City, the host of the Forum and co-organizers such as Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), Gwangju International Center and the Korea Human Rights Foundation for their excellent organization of the Forum and their generous hospitality and services during the Forum,

Hereby adopt the following commitments,

1. To promote the Gwangju Guiding Principles for a Human Rights City as a tool to promote human rights city nationally and internationally,
2. To promote the vision of a human rights city internationally, in particular in Asia through cooperation with likeminded cities, civil society organizations, academic institutions and other stakeholders, making use of the existing human rights-related mechanisms of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and other international bodies and processes,
3. To continue to promote and implement the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City as a strategic tool to globalize human rights from below and to continue fostering inter municipal cooperation among cities in cooperation with UCLG and UCLG Asia Pacific Committee (ASPAC),
4. To call upon the UN human rights bodies, in particular, the UN Human Rights Council and its Advisory Committee (HRCAC) and Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), to continue to promote the vision of human rights city and the right to the city in line with the Human Rights Council resolution on Local Government and Human Rights,
5. To call upon the Korean government together with other co-sponsors of the resolution to continue to play a leading role in promoting a vision of human rights city nationally and globally following the submission of the progress report of the Advisory Committee through the follow-up resolution at the UN Human Rights Council in September 2014,

In conclusion,

We urge the Mayor of Gwangju Metropolitan City to continue his leadership role by convening the 5th World Human Rights Cities Forum in 2015 as a space for international multi-stakeholders dialogue and reflection on a human rights city.

Gwangju, 17 May 2014