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**TOWARDS A CHARTER-AGENDA
OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CITY**

**SIMILAR EXPERIENCES
REGARDING THIS PROJECT**

Version 1 (20-11-06)



With the scientific collaboration of:
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Nowadays, there exist a large number of organisations, institutions, and all kinds of networks that make an effort to defend and guarantee human rights within the city. Among them there are a few projects in sync with the Charter-Agenda project that need to be highlighted and analysed to know what is being done, and how it is being done.

1. Montreal's City Charter

The Declaration of Montreal, which came into effect 1st January 2006, is a text that establishes the rights and responsibilities of citizens living in this city, and the compromise of local authorities to achieve them. The declaration itself (article 29) establishes its binding effect for "Montreal, its paramunicipal agencies, city-controlled corporations, their employees and other parties working on behalf of the city. It is also binding to all Montreal citizens". This clearly states that it is a limited compromise, as we will see further ahead.

The text is structured as follows:

- **Preamble:** Among other things, there is references to fundamental texts and events related to human rights, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the Vienna Declaration and the Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights (1993), and texts that link with Quebec or Montreal (such as the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms from 1975, or the Canadian Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms from 1982). The Ombudsman's figure is also highlighted as a guarantee to the people that local authorities will be prosecuted if they violate the content of the Charter.
- **Part I: Principles and values (art. 1-14).**
 - o The city understood as a space where human dignity, tolerance, peace, and equity must be the essential abiding principles (art. 1);
 - o Human dignity (art. 2);
 - o Respect, justice, and equity (art. 3);
 - o Transparency management of municipal affairs (art. 4);
 - o Citizen involvement in all municipal affairs (art. 5);
 - o Development of citizens in a physical, cultural, and social environment that protects and enhances the community (art. 6);
 - o Environmental protection and sustainable development (art. 7);

- The recognition, protection, and presentation of Montreal's heritage contribute the maintenance and improvement of the quality of life and to Montreal's renown (art. 8);
 - Culture (art. 9);
 - Equitable provision of services among all citizens (art. 10);
 - Recreation, physical activities, and sport as main features of quality of life (art. 11);
 - Diversity (art. 12);
 - Montreal as a French-speaking city that also provides all services in English (art. 13);
 - Citizens must never infringe on the rights of others (art. 14).
- **Part II: Rights, Responsibilities, and Compromises (art. 15-28):** This is the substantive part, which establishes citizen rights and responsibilities, and municipal compromises. It is divided into equally structured chapters: 1) an article with citizen rights and responsibilities, and 2) municipal compromises. The chapters are detailed below:

Democracy (Chapter 1)

- Rights and responsibilities:

- Citizens have the right to security, and cooperate with the Montreal administration to ensure continued enjoyment of this right.

- Municipal commitments:

- Encouraging public participation and providing citizens with useful and clearly formulated information.
- Facilitating access to documents pertaining to municipal affairs.
- Ensuring that the public consultation process is a credible, open, and effective process, by adopting and maintaining the appropriate procedures.

Economic and Social Life (Chapter 2)

- Rights and responsibilities:

- Citizen social and economic rights.

- Citizens cooperate with the Montreal administration by engaging in activities that are in sync with municipal compromises.

- Municipal commitments:

- Taking the necessary measures to ensure decent housing.
- Considering the needs of disfavoured people, especially those who come from modest income families.
- Keeping, with the support of its government partners, assistance measures for vulnerable persons.

Cultural Life (Chapter 3)

- Rights and responsibilities:

- Cultural rights of all citizens.
- Citizen contribution to enjoy such rights.

- Municipal commitments:

- To take the necessary measures to preserve, protect, and maintain the cultural and natural heritage.
- To maintain geographic and economic access to all cultural and artistic community centres, fostering their use.
- To support development and diversity of all cultural practices.

Recreation, physical activities, and sports (Chapter 4)

- Rights and responsibilities:

- Citizen rights to enjoy recreation, physical activities and sports.
- Citizen contribution to enjoy these rights through civic behaviour, such as appropriate use community services facilities.

- Municipal commitments:

- Supporting a wide range of services that meets the public's evolving needs.
- Developing high-quality parks, as well as the necessary facilities for leisure, physical and sports activities.
- Encouraging access to facilities and activities.

Environment and Sustainable Development (Chapter 5)

- Rights and responsibilities:

- Rights of all citizens to environmental protection and sustainable development.

- Citizen contribution through performing activities that consistent with municipal commitments, and specifically with respect to responsible water consumption.

- Municipal commitments:

- Promoting waste reduction, re/use, and recycling.
- Reconciling protection with cultural, social, and economic development.

Security (Chapter 6)

- Rights and responsibilities:

- Citizen right to public security.
- Citizen participation to ensure continued enjoyment of this right, making a special emphasis preventive measures.

- Municipal commitments:

- Developing its territory safely.
- Supporting specific measures aimed to security for women.
- Promote safe use of public spaces, such as parks or community or recreational facilities.

Municipal Services (Chapter 7)

- Rights and responsibilities:

- Rights of all citizens to high-quality municipal services.
- Citizen contribute to accomplish this goal, especially through keeping the city clean.

- Municipal compromises:

- Providing municipal services in a skilful, respectful, and non-discriminatory manner.
- Promote supply and distribution of municipal services in an equitable manner.

- **Part III: Scope, Interpretation, and Implementation.** This is also a fundamental part, and it states:

- That the Charter is to be binding for “Montreal, its public authorities, city-controlled corporations, municipal employees, and any other spheres that are involved, both with the city, and with its citizens”.

- That the Charter represents a minimum set of standards.
- That the meaning of “citizen” is “anybody who lives within the city territory”.
- That “all compromises are subject to the limits imposed on the Montreal authority and the authority shared by the city with other levels of government to the limits inherent in the financial resources available in general, and to reasonable limits in a free and democratic society”.

This paragraph is especially important, since it can mean justifying a failure to fulfil certain compromises by local authorities. In fact, the way this article is written, there are three possible causes that justify this failure to comply:

- competences of the Montreal City Council,
- financial resources, and
- “reasonable limits in a free and democratic society”.

The first one could be compared with the subsidiarity principle in the European Charter for Human Rights in the City, with the only difference that the European Charter is destined to different European cities with different organisations and systems, while the Montreal Charter is designed specifically for this city. In the Montreal Charter, sharing competences can be understood as a possible limit to effectively fulfil its obligations, while the European Charter has the opposite goal: the fact that the competence is not municipal does not justify the failure to respond by local authorities; much on the contrary, they must do everything at their reach to guarantee the established rights.

The last limit must also be highlighted, since it is a very unspecified concept that can deal with many different matters. Which are the reasonable limits to a municipal compromise?

- The role of the Ombudsman (articles 32-41): These articles establish its principles and competences, understanding that “any citizen who believes that he or she has been wronged as provided in Part II may file a contain with the Ombudsman”. The second paragraph of Article 32, which states that “this Charter has no intention of being the base for any legal action nor to be used in any judicial proceedings or similar”, is also very important

- **Final disposition** (art. 42): “within four years of the date this Charter comes into force, and periodically thereafter, Montreal will conduct public consultations aimed at assessing the effectiveness, the relevance, and the coverage of the rights and responsibilities defined in this Charter, as well as the monitoring, investigative, and complaint procedures that it provides”.

2. European Charter for Women in the City

This is an initiative nominated in the United Nation’s Concourse of Good Practice. It was sponsored by Dubai in 1996, and rated GOOD. The *Programme for Good Practice* was originated in the UN’s Second Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT II), which took place in June 1996 in Istanbul, Turkey.

This Charter is a European investigation project, and it was sponsored by the European Commission (*Unity through Equal Opportunities*). It contains an evaluation of the current situation of women, based on an analysis of 5 priority topics (urban planning and sustainable development, security, mobility, habitat and local equipment, strategies...), an electronic database of human resources, biographic references, and a catalogue of 66 “best practices”. The purpose of this Charter is to establish a worldwide electronic network that can draw conclusions in these cases from a gender-related point of view.

Although the name “Charter” can lead to confusion, it is not an articulated text nor a compromising document, but joint platform to debate with all of its participants.

This Charter is disseminated in Europe, and in international agencies, by several European associations. One of the primary goals is to establish an International Aid and Expert Network on Gender and Human Settlements, whose mission will be to underline gender-related topics as an investigation field on certain approaches to urban planning, mobility, citizen security, and housing. This network is closely cooperating with Euro FEM (Scandinavian Project Network and it is connected with other networks and NGO with similar philosophy.

The document is structured as follows:

- **Preface:**

- o Goals of this Charter:
 - A new urbanism philosophy.
 - Greater social harmony.
 - Development of a more emancipated society free of stereotypes.

- Definition of another city philosophy: measures to achieve it.
- Gender in a plural society: necessary conditions.

- **Exposition of the problem:** 8 reasons why it is necessary to have a different approach to the city.

- **The Declaration in 12 points:**
 1. Women in the city and active citizenship.
 2. Women in the city; decision-taking and equal democracy.
 3. Women in the city and equal opportunities.
 4. Women in the city and participation.
 5. Women in the city and daily life.
 6. Women in the city and long-term development.
 7. Women in the city and security and mobility conditions.
 8. Women in the city and the right to housing and a decent surrounding.
 9. Women in the city and the gender factor.
 10. Women in the city and locally experimenting and educating.
 11. Women in the city and the role of mass media and shared responsibility.
 12. Women in the city and information networks.

- **The investigation-action team.**

3. World Charter for the Right to the City

As the preamble states, this is an articulated text that “seeks to engage compromise and measures that must be assumed by civil society, local and national governments, parliaments, and international organisms, so all people can live with dignity in our cities”. It is not yet definite, and we welcome everybody to take part in it through proposals. It is to be highlighted that it was exclusively elaborated by citizens, not by political authorities.

HIC and COHRE are some of the organisms that coordinate the process to create the World Charter on the Right to a City, as well as Brazil’s Urban Reform Forum, the POLIS Institute, and the Urban Forum of Ecuador.

The document is structured as follows:

- **Preamble:** It is highlighted that the project is originated in civil society (“popular movements, nongovernmental organizations, professional associations, forums, and national and international civil society networks”, somewhat in the same direction as the World Social Forum (2001), but trying to yield compromises with “local and national governments, members of parliament, and international organisations”.

- **Part I: General provisions (articles 1-2).** This part is very important inasmuch as it defines the basic concepts:
 - o **Right to a city**, which includes or means:
 - No discrimination (specifying no discrimination for migratory condition, or sexual orientation).
 - Right to preserve the cultural memory and identity.
 - Defined as “the enjoyment of cities within the principles of sustainability, democracy, equity, and social justice”.
 - Collective right that provides its citizens with “legitimacy of action and organization (...) with the intention of achieving full exercise of the right to free self-determination and an adequate standard of living”.
 - Interdependent right with all internationally acknowledged and integrally conceived human rights, which includes all the civil, political, economic, social, cultural and environmental rights already regulated in the international human rights treaties.
 - The city as a space for the exercise and fulfilment of collective rights => it includes the right to develop, to have a healthy environment, to enjoy and preserve natural resources, etc.
 - The city as a collective, culturally rich, and diversified space that belongs to all of its inhabitants.
 - Bifoldd concept of the city, with two different meanings (both of them very extended):
 - *Physically*: “the city is every metropolis, village, or town that is institutionally organized as a municipal or metropolitan unit of local government”.
 - *Politically*: “the city is the whole of institutions and actors who intervene in its management, such as governmental

authorities, legislative and judicial bodies, institutionalized social participation entities, social movements and organizations, and the community in general”.

- Definition of citizens as “all people who permanently or temporarily are inhabitants of the cities”.
- Co-responsibility of cities and national authorities to progressively achieve full efficiency of economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights, as well as all civil and political rights, always within the limits of the country’s legislation.

○ **Principles and strategic fundamentals of the right to a city**

1. Full exercise of citizenship and democratic management of the city.
2. Social function of the city and the urban property.
3. Equity, non-discrimination.
4. Special protection for vulnerable persons and groups.
5. Social commitment of the private sector, understood as follows: Cities should promote that actors from the private sector take active part in social programmes and economic endeavours with the purpose of developing solidarity and full equity among its inhabitants.
6. Promotion of solidary economy and progressive taxation policies.

- **Part II: Rights related to the Exercise of Citizenship, and Participation, Planning, Production, and Management of the City (articles 3-11)**

○ **City Planning and Managing**, which means:

- Broad, direct, equal, and democratic participation of all citizens.
- Guaranteeing the proper working of collegiate bodies, audiences, conferences, and public consultations and debates.
- Allowing and acknowledging the citizen’s initiatives when proposing legislative proposals and urban development plans.
- To formulate and apply coordinated and effective policies against corruption.
- Safeguard the principle of transparency that guarantees effective responsibility of its governors with their citizens, local

administration's responsibility with the other levels of government, and regional and international bodies related to human rights.

- **Social production of housing**: cities must establish the necessary mechanisms to support the different approaches to social production of habitat and housing, paying especial attention to self-managing processes.
- **Equitable and sustainable urban development**: balance between urban development and protection of natural, historic, architectonic, cultural, and artistic heritage, which:
 - opposes to segregation and territorial exclusion;
 - prioritises on social production of housing;
 - guarantees the social function of the city and the property.

It also means integrating urban security as a necessary feature of public space.

- **Right to public information**
 - Requesting and receiving complete, true, and appropriate information regarding administrative and financial activities of any city administration, legislative or judicial bodies, and of private or mixed corporations that offer public services.
 - Producing the required information in a minimum time span, being only limited by the respect to individual's right to privacy.
 - Guarantee access to efficient and transparent public information.
- In order to achieve this, access of all population sectors to new information technologies must be encouraged, as well as its progressive renovation.
- Guaranteeing the right of every person or organised group to obtain information regarding the availability and location of proper grounds, housing programmes developed in the city, and available support mechanisms.
- **Freedom and integrity**: the right to physic and intellectual freedom and integrity.
 - **Political participation**: free and democratic election of local representatives. Therefore, cities must:

- Guarantee the right to a free and democratically election of local representatives, execution of plebiscites and popular legislative initiatives, and equitable access to public debates and audiences on relevant issues to the city.

- Implementing affirmative action policies for women and minorities to represent and politically participate in all elections to local bodies, and have the opportunity to define their public proposals, budgets, and programmes.

- **Right of association, right to manifest and to gather, and democratic use of public urban space**: cities must provide and guarantee public spaces to these effects.

- **Right to justice**

- Public mechanisms of conciliation, transaction, mediation, and arbitration.

- Special measures that strengthen cost-free public defence and favour vulnerable sectors of the population.

- **Right to public security and peaceful, solidary, and multicultural coexistence**: here, the role of the security forces is highlighted, underlining that:

- one of their main missions is to respect and protect citizen rights.

This implies that the force can exclusively be used within the provisions of the law, and with democratic control.

- all of these citizens have the right to take active part in controlling and evaluating security forces' role.

- **Part III: Rights to Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental development of the city (articles 12-16)**

- **Right to water resources, and to access and supply of public services, both common and private**

- Permanent access to public services.

- Reasonable social tariffs and adequate service for everybody.

- Public services that depend on the level of administration closest to the citizens.
- Social control mechanisms to monitor the quality of service.
- **Right to public transport and urban mobility**
 - Accessible public transportation systems at a reasonable price and that meet the environmental and social needs of the citizens (i.e., people with special needs due to age, gender, or handicap).
 - The fostering of the use of non-pollutant vehicles and pedestrian areas.
 - The removing of all architectonic barriers, etc.
- **Right to housing**
 - Housing expenses at a reasonable price, and housing with proper means to live in them.
 - Adequate housing supply and urban facilities.
 - Priority to vulnerable groups in regulations and policies.
 - Inclusion of women in the documents of possession and property, regardless of their civil status.
 - Installing shelters and social rental housing for women who suffer from domestic violence.
 - Right of all citizens to demand from the authorities that the right to housing be effectively implemented progressively, and through the application of all available resources.
 - Right of housing tenure for all citizens.
 - Acknowledgement of organisations and social movements that vindicate and make joint efforts to put all housing-related rights into play.
 - Applying the above to all people, including families and groups, and especially to nomads, travellers, and gypsies.
- **Right to work**
 - Cities are co-responsible with national authorities in achieving full employment.
 - Fight child labour.
 - Mechanisms to ensure everyone's equal access to work.

- **Right to a healthy and sustainable environment**
 - Preventive measures against pollution and disorganised occupation of territory.
 - Respect to the natural, historical, architectonic, cultural, and artistic heritage.

- **Part IV: Final provisions**
 - **Obligations and responsibilities of the Government to promote, protect, and implement the right to the city**
 - The international bodies and the national, provincial, regional, metropolitan, municipal and local governments are responsible for the effective application and defence of the rights enunciated in this Charter.
 - The failure of the governments to implement or apply these measures, taking actions against its own principles and regulations (...) will mean a violation of the Right to the city.

 - **Measures to implement and monitor the right to the city**
 - Cities have the obligation to maximize their available resources to fulfil all regulations established in this Charter.
 - They must educate and train human rights to all public agents related with the implementation of the Right to the City.
 - They must keep monitoring the degree of respect upheld for the rights in this Charter.

 - **Violation of the Right to the City:** it establishes the actions and omissions that are considered as a violation of the Right to the City.

 - **Demandability of the Right to the City:** this article establishes that “all persons have the right to access to and use of effective and complete administrative and legal resources related to the rights and duties enunciated in the present Charter, including the non-enjoyment of such rights”.

- **Compromise of the Charter with the Right to the City:** the Charter establishes the following compromises for all major parts:
 - Networks and Social Organisations;
 - Local and national governments;
 - Parliaments;
 - International bodies.

4. European Charter for the Safeguarding of Human Rights in the City

This Charter is an articulated text that acknowledges a series of rights to all citizens who live in the city, and it establishes mechanisms to implement and protect it.

The Charter was adopted in the European City Conference for Human Rights, and was approved in the 2nd Conference, which took place in Saint Denis (2000). The 1st Conference took place in Barcelona, in 1998, in memory of the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and has taken place every two years thereafter.

Since it is a compromise from local authorities of different European cities, and not from nations, it is not an international treaty that has jurisdiction on national governments, but is intended to be as a joint administration process. The Charter is, above all, a political compromise between local authorities that yields a true government programme assumed by all signing cities. This means that it should serve as an instrument to adjust local legal measures to the new needs in protection and guarantee of human rights. On the other hand, it must also aid to orient public politics in the cities.

The text is structured as follows:

- **Introduction:** This Charter intends to provide substantive content to human rights, and it underlines that although the city is the best place to guarantee them, it is also the one where more contradictions can take place. Signing cities compromise to the objectives in the Charter by integrating social unity in the long term, in public space, and to increase their citizen's awareness.

- **Part I: General provisions (articles 1-7)**

- **Right to the City,** which means or implies:

- Conceiving the city as a collective space that belongs to all its inhabitants.
 - The right to find the necessary conditions for a proper social, political, and environmental environment of all its citizens.
 - To assume compromises of solidarity.
 - The compromise of municipal authorities to foster the respect to everyone's dignity.
- **Principle of equity of rights and non-discrimination**: citizens are provided with this right if “they live in all signing cities, regardless of their nationality”.
- **Right to cultural, linguistic, and religious freedom**
- **Protection of vulnerable citizens and groups**
- **Duty of solidarity**: “local communities are united by a duty of reciprocal solidarity”. Local authorities:
 - Take part in this duty promoting development and quality of public services.
 - Foster the creation of webs and solidarity associations between citizens.
 - It will control the carrying out of public duties.
- **International municipal cooperation**. Signing cities:
 - Compromise to cooperate with local groups of developing countries - which are specified- and to involve as many citizens as possible.
 - It specifically addresses the financial agents to take part in cooperation programmes.
- **Principle of subordination**: this is the principle that governs the distribution of competences between the Nation, its Regions, and its Cities, and it implies the following:
 - On the one hand, that it must be periodically monitored to avoid that the nation or its regions relieve their duties on its cities.

- On the other hand, that the goal is to guarantee that public services depend on the administration level closest to the people.

- **Part II: Civil and political rights of local citizens**

- **Right of political participation**, which means and/or implies:
 - Free and democratic election of local representatives.
 - Encouragement by local authorities of extending “the right of suffrage in the municipal sphere to all the resident adult population that is not national after a period of residence in the city of two years”.
 - Encouragement of democratic participation of citizens through their access to public debates, interpellate, or express their opinion.
 - Transparency principle: “cities (...) organise the system of government and the administrative structure in such a way as to make effective the responsibility of governors to the citizens, as well as the responsibility of municipal administration to governmental bodies”.
- **Right of association, meeting, and demonstration:**
 - Local administrations encourage associative life as an expression of citizenship.
 - Cities offer public spaces for the organisation of meetings.
- **Protection of private and family life**
 - The city protects the family as an essential element of local democracy.
 - Active policies to oversee physical integrity of its members.
 - Respecting the freedom of choice in educational, religious, cultural and political matters.
 - Protection of childhood and youth.
- **Right to information**
 - Citizen rights to have information related to the social, economic, cultural, and local administrative life, limited only by:
 - The privacy of the individual.
 - The protection of small children and young people.

- Local authorities guarantee the necessary means by which information is made accessible, effective, and clear. It also encourages the learning of computer technologies.
- **Part III: Economic, social, cultural, and environmental rights of accessibility**
 - **General right to public services**
 - Social policies as a decisive part of their policies for the protection of Human Rights.
 - The right of the citizens to have free access to the municipal services of general interest.
 - oppose to commercialising personal services of social support;
 - oversee that there are basic services of quality at acceptable prices in other sectors of the public service.
 - Social policies as a rejection to exclusion.
 - **Right to education.** Municipal authorities:
 - Foster access to primary education for children and young people of school age.
 - Encourage adult education.
 - Contribute to making available to everyone both the spaces, and the educational, schooling and cultural centres, in a multicultural framework of social cohesion.
 - Contribute to increasing the level of citizenship through educational teaching.
 - **The Right to Work:**
 - Citizens have a right to enjoy sufficient resources, obtained through a worthy occupation which guarantees the quality of life. For this, local authorities:
 - contribute as far as possible to reach full employment;
 - encourage to match offer and demand for work;
 - undertaking activities accessible to unemployed people;

- compromise to not sign any municipal contract without introducing clauses of rejection of illegal work force;
 - develop mechanisms to ensure everyone's equal rights at work, in order to avoid any discrimination;
 - encourage equal access to work for women by establishing kindergartens and other measures, and for the handicapped through installing appropriate equipment;
 - encourage the creation of protected jobs for those individuals who need to be reintroduced into the working world.
- **Right to culture:** citizens have a right to culture in all its expressions, manifestations and modalities. For this, local authorities, in cooperation with cultural associations and the private sector, promote the development of the urban cultural life with a respect for diversity.
 - **Right to a home:** All citizens have the right to a proper, safe and healthy home. To achieve this, municipal authorities:
 - Encourage the existence of an appropriate offer of homes and district equipment for all their inhabitants.
 - Guarantee the right of nomads to stay in the city in minimum conditions of safety and dignity.
 - **Right to health:**
 - Favour equal access for all citizens to medical services and preventive services of health care.
 - Contribute at an overall level to promote health for all citizens, with their active participation.
 - **Right to the environment:** Citizens have a right to a healthy environment that seeks compatible behaviour between industrial development and environmental balance. For this, local authorities:
 - Adopt preventive policies against pollution.
 - Put into practice all the necessary actions through which the citizens can responsibly appreciate the countryside which surrounds

and outlines the city, so that they may be consulted over any changes which may mean changes to it.

- Develop specific education on environmental care.

- **Right to harmonious and sustainable city development:** to achieve this, municipal authorities:

- supervise town planning and management with citizen participation, especially in seeking a balance between urbanism and environmental care.

- **Right to circulation and tranquillity in the city:** municipal authorities:

- Acknowledge the right of the citizens to have available a means of transport compatible with tranquillity in the city.
- Foster accessible public transport.
- Control the automobile traffic and ensure its fluidity with environmental sustainability.
- Strictly control the emission of all types of noise and vibrations.
- Defines pedestrian areas and encourages the use of non-polluting vehicles.
- Undertake to set aside resources for the necessary infrastructures to make these rights effective.

- **Right to leisure.** Municipal authorities:

- Acknowledge citizen rights to enjoy leisure time.
- Guarantees the existence quality leisure facilities open to all children, without discrimination of any kind.
- Foster active participation in sports.
- Encourage sustainable tourism

- **Consumer rights:** within the limits of their competence, cities seek to protect the rights of their consumers.

- **Part IV: Rights related to the local democratic administration**

- **Efficiency of public services.** Local authorities:

- Guarantee the efficiency of their public services, and their feasibility with the demands of the citizens, and monitor the situation to avoid discrimination of any kind.
- Local authorities will provide the necessary instruments to evaluate their municipal action, and they will bear in mind the results of such evaluation.
- **Principle of transparency:**
 - Citizens:
 - must be able to know their political and administrative rights and obligations through publication of municipal regulations;
 - have a right to have a copy of those the local administration acts that affect them.
 - Local authorities guarantee transparency and rigorous control of public funds.
- **Part V: Guarantee mechanisms for the human right of accessibility**
 - **Local administration of justice**
 - Signing cities:
 - Develop policies designed to improve citizens' access to Law and Justice.
 - Encourage the extra-judicial resolution of civil, criminal, administrative and labour disputes, through the establishing of public mechanisms of reconciliation, settlement, mediation and arbitration.
 - Municipal justice exercised by magistrates who prove to be independent.
 - **Accessibility of local police:** Corps of highly qualified municipal police, with missions of "security and coexistence".
 - **Prevention mechanisms:**
 - Social or district mediators.
 - Municipal ombudsman.
 - Monitoring committee made up of citizens.

- **Budgeting and taxing mechanisms:**
 - Budget that admits participation.

- **Final provisions:** Legal value of the Charter and mechanisms for its application:
 - The Charter remains open for any additional cities who may want to sign it.
 - Signing cities:
 - Incorporate the principles and norms in their local ordinances.
 - Acknowledge the imperative general right of the rights declared in the present Charter and undertake to reject and denounce any legal act, especially any municipal contract, the consequences that obstruct or could be contrary to exercise of the acknowledged rights.
 - Compromise to acknowledge this Charter as the primary legal standard binding the city through mentioning it specifically in all the municipal ordinances and regulations.
 - Compromise to create a commission that evaluates the application of the Charter every two years.
 - The Meeting of the Conference of Cities for the Human Rights will decide the mechanism to implant for the proper monitoring to verify the reception and the fulfilment of this Charter by the signing cities.

- **Additional provisions:**
 - **First:** to promote that nations may allow participation in municipal elections of resident citizens that are not national.

 - **Second:** to suggest to the nations and the European Union the completion of human rights declarations.

 - **Third:** Agenda 21 programmes.

 - **Fourth:** to keep the municipal government within the respect of all rights established in the Charter in case of armed conflict.

- **Fifth:** The signature by the representative of the city who attends in Saint Denis on 18th May, 2000, must be ratified by the Municipal Council that will establish the necessary restrictions to the articulated text.