

**The Nantes permanent Secretariat organises  
the 3rd World Forum on Human Rights  
(30th June - 3rd July 2008)**

international permanent secretariat  
*human rights and local governments*  
nantes, pays de la loire. france

The 3<sup>rd</sup> World Forum on Human Rights, organised by the Permanent International Secretariat for *Human Rights and Local Governments* - an Association governed under French law (namely the “1901 Law” pertaining to non-profit-making organizations) - will be held at the Nantes Metropolis International Convention Centre from **30<sup>th</sup> June to 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2008**.

From the outset (2004), the Nantes Forum was established for the purpose of assisting and developing the various networks of players involved in protecting, respecting and enforcing Human Rights through the strengthening of solidarity among the various players (political leaders, NGO activists & leaders, academics and international experts, as well as representatives from international organizations, etc.).

Hence, to make this happen, direct discussions and free dialogue, all from an equal footing, are necessary - the reason why the World Forum on Human Rights exists today.

**The Permanent International Secretariat  
« Human Rights and Local Governments » (SPIDH)**



*First meeting of the scientific committee : from left to right : Emmanuel Decaux (France) chairman of the international permanent Secretariat of Nantes, Yvonne Donders (Holland), Pierre-Henri Imbert (France)*



*First meeting of the scientific committee : from left to right : Théo Van Boven (Holland), Laurence Boisson de Chazournes (Suisse), Franck Barrau (France), Vladimir Volodin (Unesco/United Nations)*

Following the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Forum on Human Rights in Nantes (France), which gathered together 1,200 participants representing 70 different nationalities in July 2006, it was decided to create a permanent overseeing and organisational body: the Nantes / Loire Region International Permanent Secretariat.

This **Permanent Secretariat** has two essential, though complementary, assignments, i.e. **organising future world forums** (the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Forum on Human Rights will take place from 30<sup>th</sup> June to 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2008), as well as **developing and helping to strengthen the international networks of those players** involved in Human Rights, especially focusing on the theme of “Human Rights and Local Governments”.

Indeed, the two editions of the Nantes Forum have revealed that this biennial rendezvous may only adopt its real meaning upon proper initiation of the groundwork, notably long-term efforts for a truly efficient action, by taking particular interest in the work out in the field and by enforcing Human Rights within the territories, through cooperation with local communities.

Hence, the **International permanent Secretariat « Human Rights and local governments » (SPIDH)** will, via all means of communication, endeavour to stimulate permanent debate among the different players on the many topics in the headlines, and all this punctuated by a welcome gathering every two years: **the World Forum on Human Rights in Nantes.**

### **The Charter - Agenda for Human Rights in the city**

On the occasion of the last UCLG world congress (United Cities and Local Governments), held last October in Jeju (South Korea), the International Permanent Secretariat for *Human Rights and Local Governments* (SPIDH) was entrusted the task of leading the working group on the *World Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City* (a part of the *Social Inclusion and Participative Democracy* Commission of UCLG, chaired by Elói Pietá, Mayor of Guarulhos, Brazil). This working group had, up until then, been lead by “Diputación” of Barcelona. From now on, the SPIDH of Nantes will assume such responsibility with the backing of the Nantes Metropolis, of the Loire Region, of the Loire-Atlantic county and of the City of Nantes.

## **Themes of the next Forum on Human Rights**

**30<sup>th</sup> of June to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2008**

**Nantes Metropolis International Convention Center**

- 60 years later... the universality and effectiveness of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Human Rights, between economic globalization and international solidarity
- What kind of Europe for Human Rights? What kind of Human Rights for Europe ?
- Local Governance and Human Rights: efficacy within the reach of citizens?

**A collaborative website : <http://www.spidh.org>**

The main project has been to develop communication means via a collaborative multilingual Website (French, English, Spanish), thus enabling the establishment of permanent dialogue. Such Website is already on-line: [www.spidh.org](http://www.spidh.org)

All the typical sections are included:

- Introducing the Permanent Secretariat and its partners
- Topics and information concerning the next Nantes Forum (30th June to 3rd July 2008)
- On-line registrations for the 2008 Forum
- Documents and archives from the 2004 and 2006 Forums
- A discussion forum
- Subscriptions to our newsletter, etc.

## **Workspaces online**

But above all, the [www.SPIDH.org](http://www.SPIDH.org) Website already boasts an extranet facility: a collaborative Website platform enabling all interested persons, wherever they may be in the world, to work on-line.

Workspaces online can thus be established with themes linked - particularly - to the next World Forum on Human Rights. Such workspaces have restricted access (via personal ID).

Hence, anyone interested, even those not physically attending the World Forum on Human Rights, may join in and debate on their preferred areas of interest, thereby enabling to prepare discussions prior to each Forum, to follow them during deliberations and refer to them thereafter.

**The platform proposes :**

- join a workspace online
- create a workspace online, propose a theme of discussion
- run your own personal space and change your choices of workspaces

### Tools available to contributors :

Each person contributing may :

- post a document only viewable by members of a particular workspace
- propose a discussion theme via an on-line forum reserved to the workspace members
- view the agenda shared by all workspace members
- send e-mails to workspace members

Online assistance is already proposed on the Home Page to help users take advantage of the various functions.

For further information, please [contact the Webmaster](#)

### The Nantes - Geneva network

The Nantes - Loire Region Permanent Secretariat is now a partner of the Internet Association for the promotion of Human Rights [AIDH-Geneva], as well as of its Website: [www.aidh.org](http://www.aidh.org).

This Website, dedicated to the Swiss philosopher Jeanne Hersch ["The Right to be Man", UNESCO, 1968], is one of the most comprehensive French-speaking sites on the Web. Having a general aspect in terms of information and education, it has become a reference Website, not only for the general public, but also for the civil society and international organizations.

The Nantes - Loire Region Permanent Secretariat and the AIDH association will set up, by the end of this year, a French-speaking Nantes-Geneva network on the Internet, thereby proposing an area open to thought (as well as to proposals), concerning the main challenges in terms of protecting Human Rights and Fundamental Rights, through information, debate, education and training.

This "on-line" network - via a new interactive "platform", [www.i-dh.org](http://www.i-dh.org) - aims to become a venue for expression and for exchanging ideas, open not only to political leaders, but also to leaders from the civil society, to defenders of Human Rights, to academics, researchers and experts, as well as to journalists.

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