

2013 World Human Rights Cities Forum

15-18 May 2013,
Gwangju, Republic of Korea

Sustainable Human Rights City for All

We, participants of the 2013 World Human Rights Cities Forum (WHRCF) held on 16-18 May 2013 on the occasion of the 33rd anniversary of the May 18th Democratic Uprising (the Gwangju Democratization Movement) in 1980,

- 1. Reaffirming our commitments to the vision of a human rights city as adopted at the Gwangju WHRCF in May 2011 and 2012,*
- 2. Reaffirming our commitments to the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City adopted in Florence, Italy on 11 December 2011 at the Governing Council of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG),*
- 3. Recognizing and welcoming the outcome of the first World Summit of Local Governments for the Right to the City held in St. Dennis, France on 11-12 December 2012,*
- 4. Expressing our deep solidarity with all human rights defenders and democracy advocates who have committed to the vision of a human rights city throughout the world,*
- 5. Recognizing the progress made in Gwangju including the creation of a human rights ombudsman following the adoption of the Gwangju Human Rights Charter, human rights indicators and human rights office, the first of its kind in Korea,*
- 6. Recognizing the outcomes of the thematic workshops on human rights institutions and policies, human rights education for civil servants, architecture, impunity and state violence, environment, disability, gender, children & youth in the context of building a human rights city,*
- 7. Recognizing the outcome of the meetings of the UCLG ASPAC, UCLG Global Observatory on Local Democracies (GOLD) and Conference for the Institutions Holding Human Rights Records Registered to UNESCO MOW (Memory of the World Programme) held in Gwangju as part of the 2013 WHRCF,*
- 8. Welcoming and recognizing youth participation in the 2nd Global Human Rights City Essay Contest and their contributions to the Forum and the global human rights movement,*
- 9. Welcoming the drafting of the Gwangju Guiding Principles for a Human Rights City ("Gwangju Compact") as a common tool for the implementation of the vision of human right city,*
- 10. Expressing our deep appreciation to the Gwangju Metropolitan City, the host of the Forum and co-organizers such as the May 18 Memorial Foundation, The May 18th Institute, Ad-hoc Committee for Establishing May 18 Archives and the Korea Human Rights Foundation for their excellent organization of the Forum and their generous hospitality and services shown during the Forum,*

Hereby adopt the following commitments;

- 1) 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 world over implementing human rights policies, in cooperation with the Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG),
- 2) To promote the vision of a human rights city in Asia and the Pacific through cooperation with like-minded cities, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), and interested academic institutions and civil society organizations,
- 3) To call upon the Korean government to play a leading role in promoting a vision of human rights city nationally and globally through the United Nations (UN) including Human Rights Council and UNESCO,
- 4) To call upon the UN human rights bodies, in particular, UN Human Rights Council and its Advisory Committee (HRCAC) and Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), to take up the issue of human rights city as their priority agenda and work plans, and
- 5) To finalize the Gwangju Guiding Principles for a Human Rights City (Gwangju Compact) through further consultations with various stakeholders including UN human rights experts and to develop a framework for their implementation, and

In conclusion,

We urge the Gwangju Metropolitan City to continue its leadership role by convening the 4th World Human Rights Cities Forum in 2014 as a space of international multi-stakeholders dialogue and reflection on a human rights city.

Gwangju, 17 May 2013