

COALITION OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN CITIES AGAINST RACISM, DISCRIMINATION AND XENOPHOBIA

First Annual general Conference, Montevideo, Uruguay, 24-25 September 2007

The First Annual General Conference was held over a period of two days, September 24th and 25th, 2007. It was organized by the City of Montevideo <http://www.montevideo.gub.uy> in coordination UNESCO's Section for the Struggle against Racism and Discrimination and UNESCO Montevideo.

While it was originally planned that this entire meeting would be a closed working session of local authorities representatives, given the large interest it awakened, the City of Montevideo and UNESCO decided, in addition to the working sessions, to add a series of opening and closing ceremonial sessions, and also a series of panels and lectures on issues related to racism, discrimination and general human rights issues, drawing on the impressive array of experts present in Montevideo for the event. In particular, international and national academic/civil society experts and representatives of municipalities from the region provided valuable contributions to the event.

The Conference was divided into two days, with the first day being of a "ceremonial" nature and the second made up of two components, an internal working "technical" session for members of the Coalition, and a larger thematic event open to the public.

Day 1 (24th September):

The activity took place at the City Hall of Montevideo itself, in its ceremonial room, where all documents, treaties, accords and other documents are normally signed and approved. On this occasion, an official "protocol" or "memorandum of cooperation" between the three main partners of the Coalition was signed.

While the Coalition itself had been created in October 2006 ([see website](#)) and close to 200 cities have joined it, the objective of this new tri-partite partnership was to give it an official status and to institutionalize the future cooperation of the three partners in the running of the project. As such, the municipality of Montevideo (IMM), UNESCO and the Iberoamerican Union of Lawyers' Associations (UIBA) became, through the signing of the "protocol", the official co-sponsors/leaders of the Coalition. While IMM and UNESCO have been there from the beginning of the process as natural partners, the UIBA have also been very active and present in the consolidation of the Coalition, and have shown a significant institutional, technical and financial interest in its development, most notably in the drafting and finalization of the internal statutes of the Coalition and other items.

The UIBA <http://www.uibanet.org/> is the largest association of lawyers covering Latin America, Spain and Portugal. Not only are they very important and they have provided legal advice and participation in all the major political developments/events covering the Ibero-American region, but also through their headquarters in Madrid, they are very well placed to have direct access and personal/institutional contact with many of the Spanish

and international authorities dealing with Latin America and providing support/funding for activities there.

The “protocol” ceremony in Montevideo was attended by over 100 persons (on invitation only basis) including the Mayors/representatives of the member cities of the Coalition, a large UIBA-Spanish delegation, several Uruguayan Ministers and national authorities, the diplomatic corps and the press. UNESCO, Section of struggle against racism and discrimination, UNESCO Montevideo, UNESCO Brasilia, as well as UNDP, UNICEF and others were also present.

There was significant press coverage of the event.

Day 2 (September 25th):

Morning Session:

The morning session of the second day was scheduled as a technical/working meeting open only to the member cities, the co-sponsors of the Coalition and its supporting institutions. It had three main objectives/tasks to fulfill:

1. Adoption of the Internal Statutes of the Coalition
2. Election of and approval of the Executive/Steering Committee, the Scientific Committee and the approval of Associate members (members other than local governments)
3. Presentation of possible projects/activities/plan of action for the Coalition in the upcoming 12 months.

All three objectives/tasks were successfully achieved:

Adoption of the Internal Statutes:

As mentioned before, the UIBA had worked hard with UNESCO since early 2007 to draft internal statutes for the Coalition that would not only grant it a legal personality (as a non-profit organization registered under Uruguayan law), but also a internal set of rules for its composition, functioning, methods of work and other legal and administrative elements. They had been sent a few weeks before the event to the member cities of the Coalition so that when the time came in Montevideo to adopt them, they were easily accepted by consensus of the voting members (cities) with very few cosmetic changes.

Executive/Steering Committee:

The City of Montevideo, as lead city, and in consultation with UNESCO, had decided that, according to the Statutes (adopted just beforehand) the Executive/Steering committee of the Coalition should have 12 (twelve) members, consisting of eight cities, plus two UNESCO and two UIBA members (these four with a “permanent” presence, but two voting rights instead of four). As far as the cities are concerned, they should represent the different “sub-regions” of Latin America and the Caribbean (Southern Cone, Andean countries, Brazil, Mexico/Central America, Spanish Caribbean and Non-Spanish Caribbean). On this basis, the IMM had pre-contacted cities in each region that had shown interest and invited them to form part of this committee. They all responded positively and the list below represents the constitution of this Committee for a period of

three years and of its “alternate” members, adopted by unanimous consensus and without objection by the members present at Montevideo.

Main members:

La Habana, Cuba
Montevideo, Uruguay
Morón, Argentina
Panamá, Panamá
Port au Prince, Haiti
Quito, Ecuador
Santo André, Brazil
Valparaiso, Chile

Alternate members:

Asunción, Paraguay
Caracas, Venezuela
Guarulhos, Brazil
La Paz, Bolivia
Rosario, Argentina
Santa Ana, El Salvador
Villa Angostura, Argentina

It was also agreed that a member of the English–speaking Caribbean should also be included as an alternate member.

It was also decided to have the following four roles assigned to these cities:

Presidency: Montevideo
Vice-presidency: Morón, Argentina
Secretary: Quito, Ecuador
Treasurer: Panamá, Panamá

Scientific/Technical Committee:

Once again, according to the Statutes, it was agreed to choose/elect a scientific committee to provide technical and subject-related assistance to the members of the Coalition on both, administrative and, above all, content related matters, such as studies, research, implementation of commitments, projects decided on, etc.

This Committee, it was agreed by all, shall be chaired by UNESCO’s Section against Racism and Discrimination and by UIBA and will integrate the following associations/institutions for the next three years. They are of course renewable and new members may be added upon approval by the Executive/Steering Committee.

1. INADI Instituto Nacional contra la Discriminación, la Xenofobia y el Racismo, Argentina
2. SEGIB, Secretaria General Iberoamericana
3. FEMP, Federación Española de Municipios y Provincias, España
4. CEFIR, Centro de Formación para la Integración Regional, Uruguay
5. Fundación para el fortalecimiento de los gobiernos locales de México
6. Oficina de Coordinación de la Muestra Itinerante de Cine del Caribe
7. Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey de México
8. Universidad Pablo de Olavide de Sevilla, España
9. Universidad Rovira i Virgili de Cataluña, España
10. Instituto Cultura Sur de Madrid, España
11. Secretaría Especial de Políticas de Promoción de Igualdad Racial de la Presidencia de la República de Brasil
12. Grupo de Investigación sobre la Discriminación, Prejuicio, Estigma: Minorías Étnicas, religiosas de la Universidad de San Pablo, Brasil
13. Conacha, Consejo de la Nación Charrúa, Uruguay
14. Instituciones Federadas Afroumbandistas IFA de Uruguay
15. Mundo Afro de Uruguay
16. Mundo Afro de Ecuador
17. Asociación Cultural y Casa de los Emigrantes Cesar Vallejo CIPFE, Uruguay
18. Dirección de Derechos Humanos del Ministerio de Educación y Cultura de Uruguay

Presentation of projects, activities, plan of action for implementation in the next 12 months:

The following presentations were made and the three projects were approved by the Executive/Steering Committee (all subject to funding availability which was announced as possible):

1. Observatory on Anti-discrimination policies in Latin America and Caribbean cities. This initiative was presented by Professor Doctor Roseli Fischmann, Director of the research group on discrimination and prejudice of the University of Sao Paulo, Brazil, and one of the leading experts that helped to draft the 10-point Plan of Action, back in June 2006.
2. Project on audiovisual broadcasting of the causes, effects and consequences of Latin American migration flows, based on the existing documentaries "Entre soles y lunas", by Doris Helena Rojas, Director, and Graciela Caffera, Executive producer of Indias Fílmica Movie Studios, Uruguay.
3. Project of the fight against the formation of "ghettos" in Latin America cities, adapted from a similar initiative in Spain by the Fundacion Cultura del Sur, a group of seven Mayors from the southern suburbs of Madrid, heavily populated by immigrant populations and where this project has contributed to easing tensions.

Finally, the Mayor of Montevideo himself presented again his proposal for the promotion of a continent-wide competition for the creation of a poster that, through conveying the message of the Coalition, would serve to become the "symbol" or logo of this network.

Furthermore, on behalf of UNESCO, it was reminded to the member cities that, while all these proposals and proposed activities are very much welcome, the **MAIN RESPONSIBILITY** of the member cities of the Coalition remains to adhere to and implement the 10 points contained in the Plan of Action and that any activity that can contribute to this would of course be positive.

It was also proposed, and it was accepted, that the Coalition, as a network, accompany and contribute to the whole process of **review of the Durban Conference** against all forms of discrimination and racism, a process already underway and that will reach its climax in 2009.

All members were also encouraged to try to publicize in their local media the activities and existence of the Coalition.

Afternoon Session:

Having finalized the “internal” points of work in the agenda, the afternoon session was scheduled as a thematic event, open to the public.

Besides opening speeches by UNESCO, IMM and UIBA, a presentation was made by the Mayor of Montevideo and UNESCO on the results of the morning session and the election of the different members, approval of statutes, etc.

Following that, a panel on “Anti-discrimination policies in Latin America and the Caribbean” with UNESCO as moderator took place. Representatives of the following institutions took the floor and after that the floor was opened for questions/comments from the audience:

- Secretariat (Ministry) for Racial Integration (SEPIR), Brazil
- Argentinean National Institute against racism, discrimination and xenophobia (INADI)
- Division of Human Rights, Uruguayan Ministry of Education and Culture
- University of Sao Paulo, Brazil
- Unit for Cultural Diversity, Municipality of Montevideo, Uruguay
- Unit for the rights of Afro-Descendants, Municipality of Montevideo, Uruguay
- Special Advisor on Race Relations, Presidency of the republic, Uruguay

A very interesting and enlightening debate, with no shortage of strong opinions and exchanges, took place.

Finally, the session came to an end with the screening of the movie “*Roble de Olor*” by the Cuban Director Rigoberto Lopez Pego, winner of several film festivals in France, Germany and Italy. The film portrays the difficult level of race relations in colonial Cuba (19th century), but is also indicative of many attitudes still present today, in Latin America and around the world. The film was highly appreciated by all those present.

Participation:

All in all, close to 150-200 persons participated in the event.

More than 30 cities out of the 60 that were present last year participated this time. In addition, the city of Moron, Argentina, which holds the presidency of the Mercociudades network came with a mandate from its recent general assembly to represent the over 150 cities which are members, so the proxy vote was still very significant.

All the cities that are now part of the Executive Committee were present.

In addition, a very important delegation (Mayors, lawyers, NGOs) from Spain all made the long trip to Montevideo to be present. This is a good sign that there is significant interest in support of the Coalition.

There were also a large number of Uruguayan and Latin American civil society organizations, national institutions, authorities and academics present and their contributions, as always, were highly appreciated.

LIST OF MEMBER CITIES AND ASSOCIATED MEMBERS

Member cities:

Asunción, Paraguay
Bogotá, Colombia
Buenos Aires, Argentina
Canelones, Uruguay
Caracas, Venezuela
Cartagena de Indias, Colombia
Cerro Largo, Uruguay
Ciudad de Panamá, Panamá
Colonia, Uruguay
Copán, Honduras
Flores, Uruguay
Florida, Uruguay
Georgetown, Guyana
Kingston, Jamaica
Jesús de Otero Intibuca, Honduras
La Habana, Cuba
La Paz, Bolivia
Lima, Perú
Managua, Nicaragua
Melo, Uruguay
Mendoza, Argentina
México DF, México
Minas, Uruguay

Montevideo, Uruguay
 Morón, Argentina
 Nandua, Paraguay
 Paysandú, Uruguay
 Pedro Juan Caballero, Paraguay
 Port au Prince, Haiti
 Port of Spain, Trinidad y Tobago
 Quito, Ecuador
 Renacimiento, Panamá
 Río de Janeiro, Brasil
 Río Negro, Uruguay
 Rocha, Uruguay
 Rosario, Argentina
 San Antonio del Monte, El Salvador
 San Isidro Heredia, Costa Rica
 San José de Costa Rica
 San Marcos, Guatemala
 San Miguelito, Panamá
 San Salvador, El Salvador
 Santa Ana, El Salvador
 Santa Tecla, El Salvador
 Santiago de Chile
 Santo André, Brasil
 Santo Domingo, República Dominicana
 Sao Paulo, Brasil
 Sucre, Bolivia
 Tegucigalpa, Honduras
 Valparaíso, Chile

MERCOCIUDADES Network:

| ARGENTINA | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|--|
| <u>Avellaneda</u> | <u>La Matanza</u> | <u>Pergamino</u> | <u>San Isidro</u> |
| <u>Bahía Blanca</u> | <u>La Plata</u> | <u>Quilmes</u> | <u>San Fernando del Valle de Catamarca</u> |
| <u>Barranqueras</u> | <u>La Rioja</u> | <u>Rafaela</u> | <u>San Juan</u> |
| <u>Bovril</u> | <u>Lomas de Zamora</u> | <u>Resistencia</u> | <u>Tandil</u> |
| <u>Bragado</u> | <u>Luján</u> | <u>Río Cuarto</u> | <u>Trelew</u> |
| <u>Buenos Aires</u> | <u>Malvinas Argentinas</u> | <u>Rosario</u> | <u>Ushuaia</u> |
| <u>Comodoro Rivadavia</u> | <u>Mar del Plata</u> | <u>Salta</u> | <u>Vicente López</u> |
| <u>Córdoba</u> | <u>Mendoza</u> | <u>San Luis</u> | <u>Viedma</u> |

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| <u>General San Martín</u> | <u>Montecarlo</u> | <u>San Salvador de Jujuy</u> | <u>Villa Gesell</u> |
| <u>Guauguaychú</u> | <u>Morón</u> | <u>Santa Fe</u> | <u>Villa María</u> |
| <u>Guaymallén</u> | <u>Necochea</u> | <u>Santiago del Estero</u> | <u>Villa Mercedes</u> |
| <u>Hurlingham</u> | <u>Olavarria</u> | <u>San Miguel de Tucumán</u> | <u>Zapala</u> |
| <u>Junín</u> | <u>Paraná</u> | | |
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BRASIL

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| <u>Alvorada</u> | <u>Fortaleza</u> | <u>Paranhos</u> | <u>São Caetano do Sul</u> |
| <u>Araraquara</u> | <u>Foz do Iguaçu</u> | <u>Penápolis</u> | <u>São Carlos</u> |
| <u>Bela Vista</u> | <u>Goiânia</u> | <u>Piracicaba</u> | <u>São José do Rio Preto</u> |
| <u>Belem</u> | <u>Gravataí</u> | <u>Porto Alegre</u> | <u>São Leopoldo</u> |
| <u>Belo Horizonte</u> | <u>Guaira</u> | <u>Praia Grande</u> | <u>São Paulo</u> |
| <u>Brasília</u> | <u>Guarulhos</u> | <u>Recife</u> | <u>São Vicente</u> |
| <u>Camaçari</u> | <u>Jacareí</u> | <u>Riberão Preto</u> | <u>Sumaré</u> |
| <u>Campinas</u> | <u>Joinville</u> | <u>Rio Claro</u> | <u>Suzano</u> |
| <u>Caxias do Sul</u> | <u>Juiz de Fora</u> | <u>Rio Grande</u> | <u>Taboão da Serra</u> |
| <u>Coronel Sapucaia</u> | <u>Londrina</u> | <u>Rio de Janeiro</u> | <u>Uberlândia</u> |
| <u>Cuiabá</u> | <u>Macaé</u> | <u>Salvador</u> | <u>Varzêa Paulista</u> |
| <u>Curitiba</u> | <u>Mauá</u> | <u>Santa María</u> | <u>Viamão</u> |
| <u>Diadema</u> | <u>Maringá</u> | <u>Santo André</u> | <u>Vitória</u> |
| <u>Esteio</u> | <u>Mossoró</u> | <u>Santos</u> | <u>Vitória da Conquista</u> |
| <u>Florianópolis</u> | <u>Niteroi</u> | <u>São Bernardo do Campo</u> | |
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PARAGUAY

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| <u>Asunción</u> | <u>Concepción</u> | <u>Jesús</u> | <u>Salto de Guairá</u> |
| <u>Bella Vista Norte</u> | <u>Coronel Florentín Oviedo</u> | <u>Limpio</u> | <u>San Lázaro</u> |
| <u>Capiatá</u> | <u>Fernando de la Mora</u> | <u>Nanawa</u> | <u>San Pedro de Ykuamandyjú</u> |
| <u>Cambyretá</u> | <u>Hernandarias</u> | <u>Pedro Juan Caballero</u> | <u>Villeta</u> |
| <u>Carlos A. López</u> | <u>Horqueta</u> | <u>Pilar</u> | <u>Ypehú</u> |
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URUGUAY

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|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Canelones</u> | <u>Flores</u> | <u>Paysandú</u> | <u>Salto</u> |
| <u>Cerro Largo</u> | <u>Florida</u> | <u>Río Negro</u> | <u>Tacuarembó</u> |
| <u>Colonia</u> | <u>Maldonado</u> | <u>Rivera</u> | <u>Treinta y Tres</u> |
| <u>Durazno</u> | <u>Montevideo</u> | <u>Rocha</u> | |
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BOLIVIA

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|-------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| <u>Cochabamba</u> | <u>Tarija</u> | <u>La Paz</u> | <u>Santa Cruz de la Sierra</u> |
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| CHILE | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| <u>Arica</u> | <u>Chillán Viejo</u> | <u>Puerto Montt</u> | <u>Valparaíso</u> |
| <u>Calama</u> | <u>El Bosque</u> | <u>Rancagua</u> | <u>Viña del Mar</u> |
| <u>Concepción</u> | <u>Los Andes</u> | <u>Santiago de Chile</u> | |
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| PERU | | | |
| <u>Lima</u> | <u>Lurín</u> | | |

Associate Members

- Liga Iberoamericana de ONGs, Venezuela
- ACSUN, Uruguay
- INATUR, Venezuela
- Mundo Afro, Uruguay
- UNIPRODAL, Venezuela
- IDELCA, Centroamérica
- INADI, Argentina
- CNS Mujeres, Uruguay
- CEDESTU, Ecuador
- Federación Religiosa AFRO, Uruguay
- Universidade de Sao Paolo, Brasil
- INDIA (Indígenas), Uruguay
- Sos Racismo, España-Uruguay
- Mercociudades, MERCOSUR
- Red Andina de Ciudades
- Comisión nacional Uruguaya para la UNESCO
- Universidad de la República de Uruguay
- Colegio de Abogados del Uruguay
- Secretaría Iberoamericana (SEGIB)
- Fundación Instituto Cultura del Sur, España
- FEMP, Federación Española de Municipios y Provincias, España
- CEFIR, Centro de Formación para la Integración Regional, Uruguay
- Fundación para el fortalecimiento de los gobiernos locales de México
- Oficina de Coordinación de la Muestra Itinerante de Cine del Caribe
- Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey de México
- Universidad Pablo de Olavide de Sevilla, España
- Universidad Rovira i Virgili de Cataluña, España
- Instituto Cultura Sur de Madrid, España
- Secretaría Especial de Políticas de Promoción de Igualdad Racial de la Presidencia de la República de Brasil
- Conacha, Consejo de la Nación Charrúa, Uruguay

- Instituciones Federadas Afroumbandistas IFA de Uruguay
- Mundo Afro de Ecuador
- Asociación Cultural y Casa de los Emigrantes Cesar Vallejo CIPFE, Uruguay
- Dirección de Derechos Humanos del Ministerio de Educación y Cultura de Uruguay