THE ASIA-PACIFIC COALITION OF CITIES AGAINST *DISCRIMINATION -* APCAD

Social cohesion & Liveable cities

CONFERENCE REPORT

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2016

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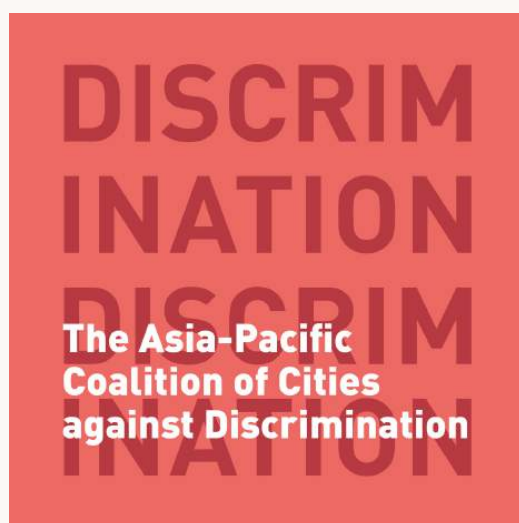E-mail: shs.bgk@unesco.org
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**DISCRIM
INATION**

**The Asia-Pacific
Coalition of Cities
against Discrimination**

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Written by Caroline Baxter Tresise
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"In our interconnected world, inclusive and sustainable urban development can only be achieved by cities coming together, by sharing ideas, experience and expertise, multiplying the creativity and impact of actions and initiatives taken at the ground level and scaling them up for global impact. This is the driving spirit of ICCAR"

/ GWANG-JO KIM, DIRECTOR, UNESCO BANGKOK /

/ FOREWORD /

Opening remarks by the Director of UNESCO Bangkok, Gwang-Jo Kim

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to join you for the International Conference of the *Asia-Pacific Coalition of Cities against Discrimination*. The shift from rural to urban, from the familiar and communal to the unknown and often isolating, has transformed this region. The ramifications of those changes impact the lives of millions. More than 60% of the world's population live in Asia-Pacific, and eight of the world's top 10 mega cities are located here. By 2026, it is estimated that half of our region's population will live in urban areas.

The theme of this conference, Social Cohesion and Livable Cities, speaks to the unique challenges of our time and is not only pertinent, it is pressing, for the millions who call this region home now and the generations to follow.

The unprecedented pace, scale and complexity of urbanization can intensify and worsen the most prevalent challenges those of us in development seek to address; such as inequality, poverty, exclusion and discrimination. Rapid urbanization also brings challenges in meeting citizens' basic needs in education, health, transport, satisfying energy and water demands, waste disposal and managing air quality.

Cities bring formidable challenges, but they also hold immense potential for positive change. They are the engines of innovation, learning, economic development, dialogue and cooperation that will drive the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and give us our best hope of making it a reality.

When the international community committed to this agenda last September, the central importance of inclusive cities and human settlements was highlighted in two of the Sustainable Development Goals. Goal 11 commits countries to making "cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable," while Goal 16 aims to "promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels."

In our interconnected world, inclusive and sustainable urban development can only be achieved by cities coming together, by sharing ideas, experience and expertise, multiplying the creativity and impact of actions and initiatives taken at the ground level and scaling them up for global impact.

This is the driving spirit of the *International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities – ICCAR*, formerly known as the International Coalition of Cities Against Discrimination and Racism.

As a global platform for cities and municipalities, ICCAR assists local authorities in promoting inclusion and sustainable development in areas as diverse as education, employment, housing provision and cultural activities.

Through ICCAR, UNESCO promotes international cooperation between cities to strengthen advocacy for global collaboration and promote inclusive urban development by sharing good practices and expertise, and joint action through the development of participatory city-level policies and initiatives.

Today we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the *Asia-Pacific Coalition of Cities Against Discrimination* in the city in which it was founded. The Coalition includes over 70 member cities from 26 countries. UNESCO welcomes increased collaboration with city authorities through the Asia Pacific Coalition. In particular, the partnership with the BMA, and the municipalities of Lamphun and Yala who are supporting the conference. We also have to thank the members of the ICCAR Global

Steering Committee present with us here in Bangkok, Councilor Arthur Anae from Auckland and Mr Nelson Fernandez, representing Mayor Daniel Martinez from Montevideo.

The New Urban Agenda, a guide for sustainable urban development for the next 20 years, will be adapted at the upcoming milestone Habitat III Conference, to be held in Quito, Ecuador in October of this year. It will translate the 2030 Agenda into the context of cities and human settlements around the world.

This conference offers us the opportunity to explore new opportunities for strengthened collaboration and partnerships at the regional and global level and to develop strategies for joint action.

I wish you all the best over the next few days in seizing upon the potential for cities to serve as not as festering grounds of division and discontent, but as places enriched by the best of humanity gathered together in all of its wonderful diversity. Thank you.

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The Asia-Pacific Coalition of Cities against Discrimination

i. The International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities - A Global Perspective

The International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities – ICCAR (formerly the International Coalition of Cities against Racism), was launched by UNESCO in 2004. Through ICCAR, UNESCO promotes international cooperation between cities to strengthen advocacy and networking for global solidarity and collaboration. The Coalition also promotes inclusive urban development free from all forms of discrimination, by advancing joint action through the development of participatory city-level policies, services and initiatives.

As an interactive platform, ICCAR aims to strengthen the global network of cities and provide opportunity for exchange of experiences and knowledge, for appropriate and targeted policies against racism, discrimination, xenophobia and exclusion.

ICCAR is composed of seven regional and national coalitions and considers the specificities and priorities of each coalition under its Ten-Point Plan of Action. The Plan of action is composed of ten commitments covering the various areas of competence of city authorities such as education, housing, employment and culture.

2016 was an important year for the International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities – ICCAR. On 1 June 2016, the global Coalition was renamed from the International Coalition of Cities Against Racism, representing an alignment with the emerging New Urban Agenda[1] and the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Recognizing the complexity of how individuals experience discrimination, a Global Steering Committee was established to guide the seven regional Coalitions, strengthen collaborative action and encourage the sharing of good practice across the ICCAR platform. The restructuring was the first step towards ICCAR's new strategy to move away from discrimination as a stand-alone concept and take an intersectional approach to understanding and responding to it.

1. The New Urban Agenda was agreed at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III). It is an action-oriented document that will set global standards of achievement in sustainable urban development, rethinking the way cities are built and managed by placing citizens at the center

Hosted by UNESCO (ICCAR Secretariat), the first Global Steering Committee meeting was held 17 – 18 April in Bologna, Italy, the lead city of the European Coalition of Cities Against Racism (ECCAR). The outcome document, the Declaration of Bologna, reaffirms the commitment of all seven Coalitions to strengthening global solidarity and reinforcing the collective identity of the global ICCAR platform.

As the New Urban Agenda was adopted in October at the UN-Habitat III conference in Quito, Ecuador, UNESCO presented some of its critical goals within the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The UNESCO-ICCAR Panel at Quito considered the complex urban settings of today that remain fertile terrain for unemployment, poverty and inequality.

Finally, 2016 marked the ten-year anniversary of the launch of the Asia-Pacific Coalition, APCAD, in October 2006. The ten-year Conference was held in Bangkok to celebrate the achievements of the Asia-Pacific Coalition and commit to a combined action-plan for the future.

Today more than ever before, there is a need to demonstrate a united voice against racism and all forms of discrimination. The commitment of the seven regional Coalitions to joint action, leadership and solidarity across the network and the promises and commitments outlined in the Bologna Declaration firmly affirm ICCAR as a key platform in advancing sustainable and inclusive urban development.

ICCAR Panel at Habitat III, Quito, Ecuador

On 17 October 2016 UNESCO and the Canadian Commission for UNESCO held an interactive panel as part of the Habitat III Conference in Quito, Ecuador. The discussions focused on key themes such as cultural diversity, migration, indigenous peoples in cities and the role of youth in promoting urban inclusion. The panel showcased perspectives and strategies from mayors and city actors from diverse urban contexts around the world as well as youth-led civil society actors.

The discussions highlighted the importance of communication between citizens and governments at the local level whose concerns are often ignored or sidelined in public policy. City-level innovations in governance were also discussed, with emphasis placed on creating more participatory policies and fostering civic engagement.

The *seven* regional and national Coalitions of ICCAR

Africa: The African Coalition of Cities against Racism and Discrimination launched in September 2006 in Nairobi, Kenya. Its lead city is Durban, South Africa

Arab Region: The Arab Coalition was launched in Casablanca on 25 June 2008 with Casablanca, Morocco, as the lead city

Asia and the Pacific: The Asia-Pacific Coalition of Cities against Discrimination was founded in August 2006 in Bangkok, Thailand. It was officially launched on the occasion of the second United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) World Congress in Jeju, Korea, in October 2007. The lead city for APCAD is Auckland, New Zealand

Canada: The Canadian Coalition of Municipalities against Racism and Discrimination (CMARD) was officially launched in Calgary, Alberta, in 2005

Europe: Led by Bologna, Italy, the European Coalition of Cities against Racism (ECCAR) was launched in December 2004 in Nuremberg, Germany. Its office is located in the city of Potsdam

Latin America and the Caribbean: The Coalition of Latin American and Caribbean Cities against Racism launched in October 2006, in Montevideo, Uruguay. Montevideo is the lead city

United States of America:
The U.S. Coalition of Cities against Racism and Discrimination, launched on 12 September 2013 in Birmingham, Alabama

ii. The 2016 International Conference of the Asia-Pacific Coalition of Cities against Discrimination – Bangkok, Thailand

Hosted by UNESCO, the Bangkok Metropolitan Authority (BMA) and the Mayors of Lamphun and the Yala City Municipalities, the APCAD Conference was held between 8 - 10 June 2016 in Bangkok. The theme of the Conference, "Social Cohesion and Livable Cities," called for greater participation in tackling the unique urban challenges within the Asia-Pacific. With a population of 4.37 billion and home to 60% of the global population,[2] the region presents great cultural, ethnic and historical diversity, as well as various stages of economic and political development. In such a heterogeneous and densely populated region, urban challenges and instances of discrimination are often amplified.

The overarching aim of the Conference was to reexamine the causes of discrimination and provide fresh perspectives on social cohesion in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as identify entry-points for action. A wide range of speakers – who included governors, representatives from international organizations, mayors and city representatives – shared their unique insights on managing rapid urbanization and tackling discrimination.

Mariko Sato, Chief of UN-Habitat, Bangkok, presented many of the emerging and critical issues on urban development in the Asia-Pacific region and strategies for using the APCAD platform to push the New Urban Agenda. The discussion that followed focused on the role that cities and municipalities can play in achieving its goals. Ms Sato urged mayors to learn where their governments stand with respect to key urban agreements and leverage these commitments for

Transparent multi-level governance is needed to manage the scale and complexity of urbanization

increased city-level support; "Strengthening the Coalition as a unified voice is especially powerful when cities identify a common issue and apply pressure for more action-oriented policies."

As populations grow and the strain on local governments intensifies, the most vulnerable groups become increasingly marginalized. The Plenary Sessions explored the effects of urbanization on these groups, taking an intersectional approach to understanding the unique experiences of individuals within the social, political, economic and historical contexts of cities. A range of topics such as urban legislation, resource efficiency across municipal boundaries and financing urbanization were considered. The discussion in isolated themes enticed much of the debate and provided opportunity for deeper reflection of the main issues that are common in many cities. Keynote speakers, Joseph D'Cruz, Regional Team Leader on Inclusive Growth at UNDP Bangkok and John Taylor, Founder and Director of the Indonesian-based NGO, Kota Kita, discussed the difficulties in measuring and understanding urbanization due to the informality of the region and the growing internal rural-urban migration that is both difficult to measure and lacking in reliable data.

Throughout the Conference, the issue of communication across municipalities and between local and national governments remained of primary concern to many of the participants. City mayors expressed frustration at being left out of key budgetary and policy decisions at the national government level. Mr Nelson Fernandez, the representative of the Uruguayan city of Montevideo and a member of the ICCAR Global Steering Committee, cited the centralization of funds as problematic for smaller cities that do not receive adequate support for financing urbanization. Moreover, cities are continuously expanding yet municipal services continue to function along out-dated administrative boundaries. Citizens living in peri-urban areas therefore do not receive adequate services or infrastructure, the driving factors behind persisting poverty. It was agreed that transparent multi-level governance is needed to manage the scale and complexity of urbanization.

In line with APCAD's commitment to strengthening the engagement of city authorities, the Plenary Sessions on the second day focused on developing strategies and strengthening partnerships to enhance action at the local level. Speaker Arthur Anae of Auckland, New Zealand, the Coalition's lead city, shared examples of good practice. Since its reform in 2010, Auckland has made dramatic structural changes to unite the fragmented local governments and develop a 'super council' with an elected mayor. With over 180 ethnicities and a population of 1.5 million,[3] the inclusive city of Auckland is now a model of excellent urban governance. Auckland was once again elected as the lead city to drive the APCAD Coalition forward into the future at the end of the Conference.

The tenth anniversary since the launch of APCAD was an opportune time to discuss the next phase of the Coalition. The insights gained during the Conference informed the drafting of the Bangkok Declaration and the renewed commitment of the APCAD Coalition to promoting the participation, solidarity and leadership of cities for achieving inclusive urban development. The Declaration was adopted at the end of the Conference.

With over 180 ethnicities and a population of 1.5 million, the inclusive city of Auckland is now a model of excellent urban governance.

3. Leading the inclusive city: Place-based innovation for a bounded planet, Democratic Urban Governance, Robin Hambleton

The Conference was organized by UNESCO and hosted by the Bangkok Metropolitan Authority (BMA) and the Mayors of Lamphun and the Yala City Municipalities. UNESCO Bangkok wishes to extend their gratitude to the BMA, Lamphum and Yala Cities for their kind input and support for the Coalition.

iii. Key discussion points

Understanding the most pressing challenges for municipalities and identifying entry-points for action are critical to achieving the goals of the Coalition. A significant part of the Conference was dedicated to concrete strategies for action and the empowerment of city-level actors. Below is a summary of the discussion points and key arguments.

Effective municipal finance systems
Mayors and city representatives cited a lack of consistent funding as the primary roadblock to strengthening urban governance and enabling effective city management. Both local and central governments must engage fully with the New Urban Agenda and adopt a national-level urban strategy and vision with city-level coordination and spending. Strategies for improving the capabilities of local governments to manage the increased responsibilities of decentralization should be presented for future APCAD consideration.

Urban Legislation
Policies affecting the development of cities are formulated at all levels of government. Policies concerning urbanization have traditionally been centralized at the national level, although recently there has been movement towards aligning urban legislation with the New Urban Agenda by empowering the local municipalities to communicate directly with the citizens they govern. Developing consistent policies across the many tiers of government remains a challenge for much of the region.

Current economic models and future growth
Current economic models in the Asia-Pacific are limiting future growth. The competitive economic structure that brought prosperity to the middle class and contributed to the development of the region has also had significant impacts on social equity. In some areas, fiscal policy in has focused almost exclusively on market growth and investment, where low cost labour and production have been prioritized over the needs and wellbeing of citizens. Achieving Sustainable Development requires a commitment to empowering the poor and building resiliency at local levels.

Resilience and resource efficiency across municipal boundaries

Metropolitan fragmentation remains a serious challenge for towns and cities. Despite the obvious economic relationships between cities, in many countries there is no effective coordinating authority and the institutions and legislation in place for governing municipalities are outdated. Furthermore, ever expanding city-boundaries has meant that many city-level challenges now extend beyond the administrative boundaries of local governments, yet municipalities in the region often operate along traditional sectorial lines.

This can result in infrastructural mismanagement and the disruption of services. To address these challenges, multilevel institutional frameworks are needed to support policy formation and interventions between national, regional and local governments. A holistic approach to governance, such as the 'Urban Nexus',[4] would increase policy coherence between jurisdictions and realize resource efficiency. Such an approach would greatly enhance the capacity of local governments to create inclusive and sustainable cities.

Urban Spatial Strategies: exploring the potential of citizen-generated data

Reliable, disaggregated data is essential for informing any policy, yet in much of the region such data is scarce and rarely disseminated to local levels of government. As a result, policy-makers often rely on outdated and insufficient information for planning and decision-making. Innovative strategies for data collection, such as urban spatial planning, are key to creating inclusive policies that protect and empower citizens. Local and regional authorities can work together to manage large amounts of data and enhance the capacity of policy-makers to employ it at all levels of government. International institutions and research institutes can also be useful strategic partners for obtaining and disaggregating data and providing open, easily accessible sources. Data-mapping techniques can be especially useful for visualizing concentrations of poverty and other socio-economic indicators such as housing and proximity to various public services. Developing frameworks for data sharing between municipalities should be a priority for APCAD in the future.

4. "Urban Nexus": Integrated resource management and planning (UNESCAP)

Informal settlements

Policies designed to prevent urbanization and restrict the movement of people must be avoided. In many cities, such policies have had severe effects on citizen wellbeing and have led to the development of informal settlements. The urban poor who live in these settlements do not have access to basic services or infrastructure which exposes them to a number of health and disaster-related risks often associated with solid waste management and poor drainage. These conditions coupled with the informality and illegality of slums prevent socioeconomic development. Slum upgrading programmes aimed at improving the living conditions of informal settlements have enormous benefits for cities, including reduced vulnerability to environmental risks and new employment opportunities.[5]

Policy based approaches to tackle the difficult issues related to service delivery and land use in slums would path the way for a more comprehensive approach to slum upgrading at the national level. The APCAD Regional Perspective Paper outlines strategies that could prove effective, such as developing core infrastructure from public transport solutions to stormwater upgrades, opening up new land for settlements and increasing housing density in established areas of the city.

There was some contention during the Conference as to whether informality has positive aspects; some argued that informality provides opportunity for the very poor to migrate and underpins the formal sector as low-cost labour. Regulating the informal economy would mainly affect the very poor and may prevent their mobility altogether.

Citizen participation and empowerment

The decentralization agenda as a means to achieving participatory decision making was discussed, especially as local governments are in direct communication with citizens and responsible for voicing their needs and concerns to national authorities. Strategies for improving youth participation in government were also considered.

Participation and empowerment are key drivers of inclusive and equitable

sustainable development and are important for strengthening citizens' capacities and realizing human rights. Consultative processes need to open to a diverse range of voices and identities, including marginalized communities such as women, the elderly, migrants, minorities and youth. However, offering these groups a 'seat at the table' is not enough to ensure their representation in legislation. Citizen capacity building is a crucial aspect of empowerment; citizens need to be properly informed of how legislation affects them and the processes for holding authorities accountable need to be clarified.

Access to good green and public space

Once considered a useful transitioning tool to form the basis of the free market-economy, the privatization of state-owned public spaces and enterprises in the region has become a serious concern. The emergence of quasi-public urban spaces, such as privately owned parks and shopping malls, are causing social polarization and further marginalization of the most vulnerable groups.

Opportunities for interaction across social divisions have been greatly diminished by the lack of neutral civic space in the region. Adequate and well-distributed public spaces – including good green space – are critical for achieving social inclusion. In alignment with the New Urban Agenda, APCAD must ensure the protection of both existing and potential public spaces in the region.

Combating HIV-related stigma

Local governments and municipalities need to recognize the importance of protecting groups that are at risk from HIV and AIDS related stigma. As detailed in the APCAD Regional Perspective Paper, HIV-related stigma and discrimination has obstructed much of the effort to prevent further infection and provide adequate support and treatment for those affected. As HIV-AIDS disproportionately affects populations living in poor and otherwise disadvantaged areas, those in peri-urban and slum areas are more likely to be exposed to unsafe behaviours that lead to transmission of the virus.

The inclusion of people living with disabilities in urban areas

The inclusion of people living with disabilities was a key discussion point of the Conference. One in every six people in Asia and the Pacific has some form of disability (which amounts to 650 million men, women and children) and many of those people are living in hard-to-reach areas. The physical barriers in accessing services and employment as well as the social and pyschological barriers created by discrimination and isolation from the community make it extremely difficult for local governments to plan for and provide adequate care for people living with disabilities. Understanding their needs to live a fulfilling life requires the development of targeted participatory approaches that work with disabled people, their carers and families, to not only understand their needs, but involve them in the design of solutions.

Currently in a lot of the region, funding allocated to ensuring the well-being and inclusion of people living with disability is limited and must be considered a priority in future budgetary allocations.

Inclusive responses to climate change and disaster risk reduction at city-level

A large number of the region's population are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters. The elderly, disabled, carers, women living in communities with limited freedom of movement, slum dwellers, and migrants are amongst the populations that have been identified as the most vulnerable. People that are not mobile are especially vulnerable, as are those that do not receive or understand warning messages. It is essential that city governments ensure preparedness through disaster risk reduction and adaptation, with special consideration of the most vulnerable groups.

The Participants agreed that a multilevel approach involving different divisions within local government is needed to create effective disaster risk reduction and response mechanisms.

iv. Auckland's urban governance reform

Auckland, New Zealand, is leading the region in inclusive local governance. Since 2009, the city has undertaken governance reforms beginning with the abolishment of the segregated single-tier authority model to a unitary council. The key aim of the reforms was to bridge the historically inadequate relationship between local and central government and boost the inclusive nature of the city.[7]

Auckland's governance reforms have been both challenging and inspiring. The establishment of the unified, single Auckland Council brought with it the inherited debts from the previously fragmented regional governance. Population increase in the region has affected the socio-economic disposition of Auckland affecting the Council's ability to plan effectively. Despite the difficulties, an analysis of the reforms seven years later suggests largely positive results. .

Indigenous representation within the Council has increased and infrastructure and services have improved considerably. The Auckland city case study provides evidence of the challenges inherent in reconciling demands for strategic urban planning with inclusive civic participation at the municipal level.

The independent Royal Commission on Auckland Governance was established in October 2007 to gather evidence and report on gaps in infrastructure, evidence of social polarization and underperforming services. Its key objectives were to:

a) ensure the current and future well-being of the region and;

b) to advance the region's contribution to wider national objectives and outcomes[8]

7. Governance of Auckland: 5 years on Report
8. Auckland Governance, Volume 2: Executive Summary

v. Internal rural-urban migration fact sheets

Internal migration is an inevitable feature of countries that undergo rapid economic and social development. It is much more prevalent than international migration and much more difficult to track. For example, in 2013 it was estimated that roughly one quarter of Cambodia's population are internal migrants, 75% of which are under the age of thirty. Such significant movement within a short period of time undoubtedly represents a permanent demographic shift in the structural make-up of Cambodia, however, very little is known of the long-term effects of migration on cities, the migrants and those left behind.

UNESCO has developed a series of situation briefs for various countries in the Asia-Pacific region (Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Timor-Leste, Philippines and Indonesia) based on a comprehensive literature review of rural-urban migration patterns. Further research is needed to fill the data gaps so that city authorities and national governments can develop appropriate and informed policy responses.

vi. Disability-mapping in Indonesia

Cities in Indonesia are often at the forefront of inclusive social policy innovation, espcially with respect to fulfilling the rights of people living with disabilities. However, effective policy-making at the city level is often hampered by the lack of relevant and up-to-date data. UNESCO Jakarta is working with the NGO Yayasan Kota Kita to bridge the data gap by fostering closer links with persons with disabilities and increasing their participation in knowledge production and policy processes. Such participatory approaches can enhance the impact and effectiveness of city-level policy and action, as well as mobilize the skills and expertise of persons with disabilities and disabled persons organizations (DPOs) in inclusive planning.

 The project aims to map disability data at the smallest administrative level and develop a scalable model that can be replicated in other cities of Indonesia. The project also aims to strengthen the relationship between city authorities and citizens that are living with disabilities, through a mutually beneficial collaborative process.

vii. How to join the Asia-Pacific Coalition of Cities against Discrimination

Please contact Dr Sue Vize for information about joining the Coalition.

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UNESCO strongly urges all interested city representatives to participate in the discussions and submit examples of good practice on a regular basis.

viii. The Ten-Point Plan of Action

1. Assessing Racism and Discrimination and Monitoring Municipal Policies

2. Providing Political Leadership at the City and Community Levels to Address Issues of Discrimination and Exclusion

3. Promoting an Inclusive Society

4. Strengthening Support for the Victims of Racism and Discrimination

5. Facilitating Greater Participation and the Empowerment of City Dwellers through Access to Information

6. Promoting the City as an Equal Opportunities Employer and Service Provider

7. Promoting the City as an Active Supporter of Equal Opportunity Practices

8. Challenging Racism & Discrimination through Education

9. Promoting Cultural Diversity

10. Preventing and Overcoming Racist Incitement and Related Violence

ix. The Outcome Document: The Bangkok Declaration

The Bangkok Declaration The Coalition of Cities Against Discrimination in Asia and the Pacific was founded in 2006 and includes a variety of local governments such as municipalities, cities and provinces.

The members of the Coalition reaffirm our commitment to the Ten Point Action Plan that aims to reduce and eliminate racism and discrimination based on our common values and principles reaffirmed during the Bangkok conference;

We agree that our goals can be achieved through the development and on-going assessment of practical plans and actions at all levels of governance with urban and rural communities;

We the members of the Coalition which includes all local government units will build an international community to promote social inclusion that shall inspire and mobilize all citizens to work together with all stakeholders in implementing concrete plans aided by responsive and effective policies to implement the Ten Point Action Plan;

We the members of the Coalition will work together to develop and share new tools, resources, expertise and exchange experiences that will support us in our work against all forms of discrimination;

We will develop a system of tracking progress of our collective work and measure and evaluate performance and impact at the country, regional, and global levels. We may also be able to measure community level success by identifying clearly our indicators and the means to measure;

The members of the Coalition will hold its next a regional conference of Cities against Discrimination, in Gwangju Metropolitan City, Republic of Korea in 2012 . At that time members are encouraged to share their follow up to this declaration to the practical implementation of the Ten Point Action Plan through providing good practices and policies;

A website for the Coalition of Cities against Discrimination in Asia and the Pacific will be established as an avenue in sharing good practices across borders and oceans; The members present at the conference, reflecting the composition of the Asia Pacific Coalition, recommended to UNESCO to consult with other regional coalition of cities to include all forms of local governments as members of the Coalition, ranging in size from village, municipalities, cities, to provinces;

We the members of the Coalition declare commitment to work as a regional Coalition to evaluate better practical measures to protect human rights, and to promote respect of the integrity and dignity of all people;

WE THE PARTICIPANTS OF THIS CONFERENCE PLEDGE OUR COMMITMENT TO THIS DECLARATION!