

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING – DOCUMENT FOR APPROVAL**

### List of participants:

- ❖ Jairo Jorge da Silva. Mayor of Canoas
- ❖ Deise Martins. Canoas City Council Department of International Relations and Innovation.
- ❖ Celio Piovesan. Canoas City Council Department of Governance and Institutional Relations.
  
- ❖ José Fernández: Director General for Citizen Participation at Madrid City Council
- ❖ Sandra de Lorite: Sub-director General for Citizen Participation at Madrid City Council
- ❖ Vanesa Marx. Lecturer at Universidad Federal de Rio Grande do Sul.
- ❖ César Busatto. Porto Alegre City Council's Department of Local Governance
- ❖ Rodrigo Rangel. ObservaPoa Co-ordinator, Porto Alegre City Council
- ❖ Adriana Furtado. ObservaPoa Co-ordinator, Porto Alegre City Council.
- ❖ Laura Parrique. Municipal Government of Maputo
- ❖ Sergio Matosse (Maputo)
- ❖ Maputo
- ❖ Nelson Dias President of the IN LOCO Association
- ❖ Carles Agustí. Barcelona City Council's Commissioner for Citizen Participation and Associations.
- ❖ Bachir Kanouté. Executive Co-ordinator of ENDA-ECOPOP
- ❖ Andriamahasoro Rondromalala - Mayoress of Ampasy Nahampoina, Madagascar
- ❖ Cristina Bloj. Lecturer and Researcher at Universidad Nacional de Rosario
- ❖ Adrià Duarte. IOPD Technical Secretariat Co-ordinator (Barcelona City Council)
- ❖ Matt Ryan (Southampton University)
- ❖ Ginny Browne (The Participatory Budgeting Project, Oakland)
- ❖ Luc Doray (OWHC Montreal)
- ❖ Kátia Lima (Guarulhos City Council)
- ❖ Claudio Sule (El Bosque, Chile)
- ❖ Djamel Sandid (Nanterre City Council)
- ❖ Hassan Hmani (Deputy Mayor of Nanterre)
- ❖ Yamina Bendahmane (Director for Participation, Nanterre)
- ❖ Lúgia Maria Alves (General Co-ordinator for Social Participation in Public Management, Federal Government of Brazil)
- ❖ Felisberto Seabra Luisi Luisi (Councillor of Participatory Budgeting, Porto Alegre)
- ❖ Katherine Velásquez Silva (Office of the Under-secretary for Local Planning and Participatory Budgeting, Medellín City Council)
- ❖ Gelson Antônio Leite (Belo Horizonte City Council)
- ❖ Simphiwe Myeza Participatory Democracy Development Alternatives (Durban, South Africa)

The annual assembly of IOPD members was held on Tuesday 3 June - hereinafter, internal session – at Universidad UnilaSalle de Canoas, as part of the 14th International Conference of the IOPD entitled “The Radicalisation of Democracy and Participation”.

The session was opened at 3.15 pm, fifteen minutes after the scheduled time, by Deise Martins, from the International Relations Office of Canoas City Council and Carles Agustí, Barcelona City Council's Commissioner for Citizen Participation and Associations. The Mayor of Canoas, Jairo Jorge da Silva, joined the meeting after the appointed time, due to having to attend to other business.

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Carles Agustí - Commissioner for Citizen Participation of Barcelona City Council -, then welcomed the participants on behalf of the IODP's Technical Secretariat and made a brief round of introductions.

After welcoming the participants and making the introductions, the meeting proceeded to deal with the business on the agenda.

### **1. Chairman's Annual Report**

Deise Martins, acting on behalf of Canoas City Council, presented the main themes of the IODP chairman's annual report, the preparations for the Conference and the participatory model of the city of Canoas. Canoas City Council, acting as the IODP annual chairman for 2013-2014, is committed to ensuring the participation of its citizens in public life and for that reason it has set up different participatory mechanisms, including participatory budgeting and "street government".

The Conference will be based on 6 thematic areas,



### **2. MANAGEMENT REPORT (see document)**

- Carles Agustí briefly explained the change made to the IODP Technical Secretariat management area for the purpose of revitalising IODP activities during the period between conferences. He then expressed his satisfaction with the network's expansion in terms of members and the impact that this has had on the network. He mentioned that the funding issue and the IODP's organisational ambition were challenges pending from previous meetings. Then Adrià Duarte presented the main aspects of the work carried out by the Technical Secretariat during the 2013-2014 period, dividing them into 10 points. These are: 1) Network

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expansion, 2) Member classification, 3) Website, 4) Social Networks, 5) Internal and external communication, 6) Activities carried out, 7) Co-operation with other networks and projects, 8) Regional antennas, 9) Funding and 10) Work Group. The round of speeches regarding this point was then initiated.

- Luc Doray asked about the characteristics of the new North American IOPD members, i.e., whether they were local governments or organisations; he also proposed co-operating with the *International Association of Public Participation*. He also explained that the new head of the OCPM had a more favourable opinion of international exchange and so they could return to being active members of the network.
- Bachir Kanouté proposed that the new IOPD map that was presented should include the names and contact emails of IOPD members, to facilitate exchanges.
- Carles Agustí responded that Barcelona City Council had provided all possible resources and had implemented two agreements with two Barcelona universities, which have sent students to support the Technical Secretariat. Adrià Duarte responded that most IOPD members in North America were civil-society organisations and explained that the map would be developed to facilitate exchanges between IOPD members. He also reminded the meeting that the list of IOPD members was posted on the website, and in greater detail in the private area.
- César Bussato reminded the meeting that the IOPD's initial objective was to become a network of Local Observatories from different cities all over the world and that the relationship with these observatories no longer existed.
- Dajamel Sandid intervened with a comment about the serious crisis of democracy being experienced in Europe and defended a more political and less technical posture by the IOPD. He also asked what had happened to the IOPD's initial members, particularly in Europe: Lille, Reggio Emilia.. He proposed taking part in major world-wide debates (on the subject of development) from a participatory standpoint,
- Hassan Hmani: proposed a discussion about why the organisation was losing members in Europe
- Cristina Bloj proposed recuperating or reactivating work groups on the Local Observatories
- Bachir Kanouté said that this new regulation should be established, in order to establish an order and define the role of regional antennas.
- Carles Agustí responded that he agreed with this and that all these aspects were related: human resources – statutes (own legal status) – finance. Barcelona agrees with expansion and with the IOPD becoming an international point of reference, but he added that this meant moving towards becoming an international organisation and that being an organisation involved a series of implicit obligations, which all members must be clear about. The IOPD should move towards decentralising its structure in addition to its financial decentralisation; for this reason, members needed time to reflect on this aspect and weigh it up in full.

Jairo Jorge, the Mayor of Canoas, joined the meeting and apologised for being late due to business commitments in Porto Alegre. He welcomed all the IOPD members and then spoke about the crisis of representative democracy and the legitimacy of institutions. As a solution, he proposed that the Conference title should be: "The radicalisation of democracy and participation", and offered the participatory policies being implemented in his city as an example. With respect to the IOPD and other international organisations, the Mayor believed that a profound debate was necessary about their objectives and the resources needed to achieve them. He affirmed that it was necessary to ask the right questions.

### **3. REPORT ON REGIONAL ANTENNA ACTIVITIES**

- Rodrigo Rangel, the new co-ordinator of ObservaPoa and from now on head of the IOPD Regional Antenna in Latin America, explained the IOPD project implemented on that continent. The

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regional antenna's priorities would be the expansion of the network by enlisting new members, through relations with other networks or regional organisations and the creation of new local observatories. In order to achieve this purpose, an agreement would be signed (agreement signed on 5 June, within the framework of the IOPD Conference) with the MercoCities network with a view to organising Local Observatory training workshops. Rodrigo Rangel also mentioned that a special Regional Antenna area had been opened in the IOPD website, where news and specific documents would be posted, such as comparative studies on participatory democracy. The funding challenge would also be crucial for the Latin American office.

- César Busatto made a speech, also on behalf of the Latin American Regional Antenna and expressed his thoughts on the IOPD, its origins and what he thought its mission should be. The IOPD should be a place for reflecting on participatory democracy and influencing other international organisations and local governments to promote participatory democracy. Busatto mentioned a UN-Habitat report in which the word democracy was not mentioned even once.
- Bachir Kanouté presented his activity report in relation to IOPD Africa (see document). He described the participatory processes implemented in Africa and said that 274 participatory experiences had been identified in the continent and explained his work in supporting and promoting these activities. As an example, he presented the case of Tunisia, which had hosted the African Participatory Budget Conference. This is a country immersed in a democratic transition where participatory forms of governance are starting to be established on a local scale. Bachir Kanouté also described the development of two international training sessions for local leaders on implementing participatory budgets.

There was then a round of questions about the management reports which led to a wider debate on the challenges facing participatory democracy and the organisation itself:

- Felisberto Seabra Luisi explained that he was writing a book about the general public's motivations for participating, and he believed that there was a shortage of effective participation mechanisms. He was in favour of improving participation
- Nelson Dias was in favour of increasing relations with already-existing state networks for participatory budgeting, in order to reach more local governments and players. He also said that he was developing a project to promote the World Bank in Mozambique and that a strategic document on Participatory Budgeting would have to be drafted at a national level.
- César Busatto congratulated Bachir Kanouté for his excellent work in dissemination and training in Africa and said that he had taken part in a training session in Uganda. He said he was in favour of working harder in the non-French speaking areas of Africa and above all, on city-city co-operation, like Porto Alegre with several African cities.
- Claudio Sule explained that they were one of the IOPD's founding cities and that they were very optimistic about the organisation's evolution. They are in favour of continuing to undertake studies and research and writing reports about the achievements of participatory democracy and its effects on the quality of people's lives, as well as creating indicators to facilitate comparative studies.
- Lígia Alves, representing the Federal Government of Brazil, presented her view of the challenges of democracy, which made it necessary to create online participation channels. She proposed a collaborative agreement between the government and the IOPD in order to promote citizen participation.
- Bachir Kanouté intervened again to propose some potential lines of action such as study scholarships in the IOPD's area of interest, stronger relations with the press and specific co-operation-for-development proposals.
- Rodrigo Rangel was in favour of seeking alliances and collaborative agreements with governments and other organisations in order to develop projects.

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### 4. CHAIRMANSHIP 2014 -2015. PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND ELECTION OF THE NEW HEADQUARTERS (see document)

As the debate became overly-prolonged, due to lengthy contributions by the participants, it was decided to bring forward the item on the agenda referring to the date for submitting candidates for the 2014 – 2015 chairmanship.

- Carles Agustí explained that there were two preliminary candidates, the city of Madrid (Spain) and the city of Guimarães (Portugal), which were interested in chairing the IOPD and organising the conference. Guimarães finally decided not bid for the chairmanship due to economic reasons.
- José Fernández, Madrid City Council's Director of Citizen Participation, presented the City of Madrid's participation model, including a large volunteer network and neighbourhood plans. Based on a firm commitment to citizen participation, the city of Madrid wished to act as IOPD chairman and organise the forthcoming IOPD Conference in 2015.

Madrid was unanimously elected as chairman, and will host the forthcoming 15th IOPD Conference.

### 5. DISCUSSION OF 2014 – 2015 WORK SCHEDULE (see document)

- Carles Agustí indicated the Observatory's action priorities: to improve communication, make progress with respect to funding and present its positioning in current major political debates.
- Adrià Duarte presented the work schedule project, which included 10 priority actions: expansion and diversification of members, regional antennas, promotion of the website, improving communication, promoting the use of social networks, funding of the network, work groups, 9th IOPD distinction, 15th IOPD Conference and other conferences.

A new round of speeches commenced:

- César Busatto asked for the task of monitoring and creating new local observatories to continue. He also said that Porto Alegre was celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Participatory Budget with an event to be held from 20 to 22 November. This 25th anniversary was an opportunity to take stock, make a qualitative analysis of the experience and redesign how the participatory budget works, based on the general public's demands and the context.
- Bachir Kanouté insisted on the institutional evolution of the organisation and on the need for a new regulation.
- Carles Agustí proposed setting up a work group to draft a new regulation, and to also make political statements about current affairs.
- César Busatto said that he was concerned about the issue of political positioning, since the network was quite diverse and that this might generate conflicts, as it was a very complex matter.
- Claudio Sule proposed that the IOPD's internal meetings for members be held at the end of the Conference and not at the beginning, in order to make the most of the content of the Conference.
- Katherine Velásquez spoke out in defence of citizen participation in politics and warned of the risks to democracy in Colombia.
- Vanessa Marx, representing Universidad Federal de Rio Grande do Sul, defended the importance of university projects and the need to collaborate with research centres for IOPD purposes.

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- Djamel Sandid defended a more political role for the IOPD and asked for it to be present in major international debates such as *Habitat 3* and the *post 2015* development objectives
- Nelson Dias said that the IOPD's strength was its diversity and that it was very premature to establish political positions. He defended the work group for preparing the new regulation.

The working hours of the interpreters ended at 18:30h, as the session should have ended at 18h. Furthermore, the opening conference was scheduled to start at 19h and for that reason the meeting was adjourned.

The conclusions drawn and agreed at the meeting are set out below:

### Conclusions:

- Approval of the 2013 – 2014 management report
- Approval of the 2014 – 2015 work schedule
- The city of Madrid was elected as the chairman of the IOPD for the year 2014 – 2015
- Setting up of a work group to draft the new IOPD Regulation for approval at the 2015 Members' Assembly.
- Setting up a work group to establish a declaration of intent about the role of participation in the *post2015* UN development objectives
- Promoting and continuing with the task of Local Observatory expansion. The IOPD would be the meeting point and reference for these Local Observatories.
- The nature of the organisation was too heterogeneous and diverse to enable specific political stances to be considered, as this could lead to serious conflicts between members
- That variety was both a weakness and a strength of the organisation
- The expansion of the network was a positive thing and that objective should be pursued, by seeking to be present in more countries and regions
- It was necessary to ask why so many members or former members were no longer active in the network
- Continue with the task of recuperating non-active members