

**24th Conference of the International Observatory on Participatory Democracy
(OIDP)**

**“Connect, Integrate and Humanize: Cities facing the challenge of generating
Community”**

CONCEPT NOTE

Session 1

Inaugural Panel

Date: 21 May 2025

Time: 11:00 - 12:30

Place: Auditorium UCC, Córdoba, Argentina

CONTEXT

In a historic moment marked by major global transformations and multiple social, political, and environmental tensions, the 24th Conference of the International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (OIDP) positions itself as a key space **for collective reflection on the future of our democracies from the local level**. Organized by the Municipality of Córdoba and the World Organization of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), this conference brings together municipal leaders, academics, social activists, and international organizations with the aim of fostering an **open, diverse, and constructive dialogue on governance models, participatory mechanisms, and the ways in which we build community**.

Under the theme “Connect, Integrate and Humanize: Cities facing the challenge of generating Community”, this conference seeks to **bring together ideas, experiences, and commitments to strengthen local democracy—with an active, informed, and engaged citizenry at the center of public policies**. Today, more than ever, defending

local autonomy and citizen participation is not just about management tools; it is about essential foundations for more inclusive, legitimate, and effective governance.

OBJECTIVES

The inaugural panel of this 24th edition aims primarily to **open the debate with a strategic and multidimensional perspective on the major challenges and opportunities facing local democracies today**. It seeks to frame the overall content of the conference, emphasizing the **political, social, and ethical value of citizen participation as a transformative tool** for public policies and as a guarantor of democratic legitimacy.

This panel will serve as a starting point to share inspiring visions, identify shared priorities, and reaffirm **collective commitments in defense of democracy, decentralization, and social justice at the local level**.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

The inaugural panel proposes to open this space for shared reflection and action by addressing key questions:

- How can cities respond to democratic disenchantment and foster greater trust in institutions?
- What role does citizen participation play in social cohesion?
- What kind of autonomy do local governments need to innovate and make an impact in a transforming world?
- How can we harness the digital revolution and artificial intelligence without leaving anyone behind?

SPEAKERS (Preliminary)

Opening Ceremony

- **Daniel Passerini**, President of the OIDP, Mayor of Córdoba (Argentina)

Inaugural Panel

- **Daniel Passerini**, President of the OIDP, Mayor of Córdoba (Argentina)
- **Renato Simões**, National Secretary for Social Participation, Office of the President of Brazil (Brazil)

- **Konstantinos Koukas**, Vice President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, Councilor and former Mayor of Mykonos (Greece)