

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

"Connect, Integrate, and Humanize: Cities Facing the Challenge of Building
Community"

CONCEPT NOTE

OIDP High-Level Political Dialogue

Date: May 21, 2025

Time: 4 pm- 6 pm

Venue: UNC Auditorium, UNC Cultural Center, Córdoba, Argentina

INTRODUCTION

This moment is the heart of the annual OIDP Conference, the space for political debate among mayors, governors and other elected officials of local and regional governments present. During this session, we invite elected officials present at the Conference to take the floor to share their reflections and experiences on how to strengthen democracy and trust in institutions, and the challenges to be overcome. It is also a decisive moment to discuss the Córdoba Declaration, which will gather the main conclusions and commitments made by the participants in the 24th OIDP Conference.

CONTEXT

In a global context of increasing urbanization, rising inequalities, and challenges such as climate change or the current technological revolution, with democracies and institutions at risk, there is a growing need for cities to adapt and find ways to ensure that their governance systems remain **resilient** and **inclusive**. Under the theme "Connect, Integrate, and Humanize: Cities Facing the Challenge of Building Community", this conference aims to create a **space for dialogue and learning** where these issues are brought to the forefront. In particular, the theme of this edition in

Córdoba will contribute to identifying mechanisms of citizen participation for community building, the trends and opportunities of city decentralization and local autonomy, and the impacts of new technologies in governance and decision-making.

This Session should be a **central point of action to build alliances and narratives to help us foster more integrated, participatory, and resilient communities**. Moreover, as a result of the 24th OIDP Conference, the **Córdoba Declaration** will be adopted, which will gather the main conclusions and commitments made by the participants. This political document will serve to **strengthen the pro-democratic agenda, promote decentralization and participation, and contribute to the global strategy of UCLG and the municipalist movement**. As a space for international cooperation and dialogue, this High-Level Political Dialogue aims to hear and raise the voice of our cities and local governments, **bringing their commitments, propositions and ideas for alliances at the center of discussions**.

The OIDP Conference and this High-Level Dialogue, as spaces for international cooperation, are key milestones in the agenda of United Cities and Local Governments towards the achievement of SDG 16 “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions” and its **Local Social Covenant**, our aspiration for a renewed multilateral system. This Dialogue is our opportunity to bring to the forefront the role of local and regional governments as the main pillars of any democratic society.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- What is your diagnosis of the current state of democracy, as we face structural crises?
- How can citizen participation and new technologies help reinforce trust in institutions, strengthen social cohesion, and promote good governance?
- What actions can local and regional governments take to strengthen democracy and participatory governance, and what support do they need from the multilateral system?

AGENDA

This Session will be divided in **two segments**. During segment 1, cities and regional governments will have the opportunity to take the floor to share their reflections and experiences on how to strengthen democracy and trust in institutions, and the challenges to be overcome. Segment 2 will be an open floor, where authorities can voice their opinion and ideas, including on the Córdoba Declaration.

The floor will be open to all local and regional authorities present to raise their comments and opinions, including on the Córdoba Declaration. Interventions of up to 3 minutes.

SPEAKERS (Preliminary)

- **Daniel Passerini**, President of the IOPD, Mayor of Córdoba (Argentina)
- **Renato Simões**, National Secretary for Social Participation, Federal Government (Brazil)
- **Roberto Neira Aburto**, Mayor of Temuco (Chile)
- **Guillermo de Rivas**, Mayor of Río Cuarto (Argentina)
- **Fernanda Alonso**, Mayor of General Pico (Argentina)
- **Juan Cristóbal Lloret Valdivieso**, Prefect of Azuay (Ecuador)
- **Pablo Hassan**, Mayor of Oberá (Argentina)
- **Maximiliano Frontera**, Mayor of Villa Mercedes (Argentina)
- **José Duarte D'Almeida**, Councillor of Cascais (Portugal)