

Montevideo, destino de paz



Foro Mundial
de Ciudades y
Territorios de Paz
Montevideo, 2025



THEMATIC AXIS 1. LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS RESPONDING TO INTOLERANCE, RACISM, DISCRIMINATION, AND EXTREMISM

I. Context

The 5th World Forum on Cities and Territories of Peace (FMCTP) in Montevideo takes place in a context marked by wars between states, increased human mobility worldwide, the acceleration of the digital revolution, deepening inequalities in wealth distribution, and growing political polarization. These phenomena have exacerbated expressions of hate, extremism, and intolerance toward diversity, posing challenges to initiatives aimed at inclusion and equity, and directly impacting social coexistence and justice in cities and territories.

Addressing systemic discrimination requires recognizing the structural factors that generate it. These include poverty, impunity, the legacy of slavery and forced migration, the tendency to oversimplify complex problems through stereotypes, and dominant cultural patterns based on hierarchies, which are reflected in narratives about diversity.

Local and regional governments (LRGs) play a crucial role in promoting global citizenship based on the true universality of human rights, regardless of a person's ethnic origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or physical disability. Since cities are the main stage where hate and intolerance manifest, they have the necessary proximity to generate concrete impacts on equity through the provision of local services that contribute to reducing inequalities and influencing the quality of institutions and public policies.

International discussions, such as those led by UNESCO at the 4th Global Forum Against Racism and Discrimination in Barcelona in December 2024, highlighted the need to address both the multifaceted nature of the problem and its solutions. While progress has been made in adopting regulatory and institutional frameworks to combat discrimination and racism, the response must also include issues such as access to justice, education, data collection and usage, the construction of narratives that make the realities of marginalized populations visible, community engagement, the way public policies are conceived and implemented, and international collaboration.

On December 17, 2024, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming the Second International Decade for People of African Descent, aiming to promote recognition, justice, and development for Afro-descendant communities worldwide. This renewed framework

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seeks to strengthen international cooperation and national efforts to ensure sustainable development and social inclusion for these communities.

Local and regional governments can promote dialogue platforms that foster mutual understanding, build trust, and help reduce polarization and extremism. Encouraging conversations that transcend cultural, religious, and social differences is key to building more cohesive societies. Cities and territories that prioritize these interactions are better equipped to overcome the challenges of polarization and create violence-free spaces.

II. Methodology

The sessions dedicated to this **thematic axis** will consist of two main components¹: a panel discussion and workshop session with guiding questions:

Expert Panel: Key Perspectives and Approaches

Goal: Provide a technical overview of key perspectives and approaches related to the thematic axis.

Format: A discussion between a maximum of 5 experts, moderated by a facilitator.

Duration: 60 minutes

Workshops on Experiences and Lessons Learned

Goal: Share innovative insights, public policies, and successful projects carried out by **LRGs, city networks, civil society organizations, communities, or citizens** related to the thematic axis.

Format: Presentation of **success stories**, followed by **interactive engagement** with participants using **digital tools** and a **Q&A session**.

Duration: 90 minutes

III. Dimensions

Under the concept of **Participatory Governance for Coexistence and Peace, Thematic Axis 1: Intolerance, Racism, Discrimination, and Extremism** will feature participants and implementation experiences from **LRGs, international organizations, civil society groups, and young leaders** across six key dimensions:

¹ It is recommended that the participants of the two segments refer to the general Concept Note for greater clarity regarding the comprehensiveness and main bets of the 5th FMCTP.

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1. ACCESS TO JUSTICE. Despite the development of normative frameworks to sanction acts of racism, discrimination and intolerance, minorities and vulnerable groups face multiple barriers to exercising their rights associated with information and the costs of judicial processes. Local and regional governments have been, and can continue to be, key actors in ensuring marginalized populations' access to justice and reversing situations of administrative injustice. To overcome impunity in cases of intolerance, discrimination, and extremism:

Panel Questions:

What initiatives have been implemented at the local and regional levels to facilitate victims' access to justice?

What role can alternative dispute resolution mechanisms play in ensuring justice for minorities?

Workshop Questions:

How have LRGs expressed their articulations with justice operators in the management of cases of discrimination and intolerance?

How can local communities participate in the resolution of cases of intolerance and discrimination?

2. EDUCATION. The impact of formal and non-formal education at all levels, from schools to the training of public servants, is essential to prevent, manage and overcome intolerance, discrimination and hatred.

Panel Questions:

What experiences related to cultural transformations that celebrate diversity through education have been implemented at GLR?

What role does artistic and cultural education play in promoting values of respect and inclusion?

How can young people contribute to plans and actions to advance the relationship between education and coexistence?

Workshop Questions:

How does collaboration between LRGs with relevant actors from civil society, the private sector, and academia materialize for anti-racism and anti-discrimination education programs?

How can communities be sensitized to the importance of reporting acts of discrimination and extremism?

3. DATA AND EVIDENCE: The adoption of evidence-based public policies that address the issues of intolerance, racism, discrimination and extremism requires reliable data that reflect the characteristics of the populations to whom they are addressed.

Panel Questions:

What data collection, analysis, and use tools and methodologies are available for LRGs to

Workshop Questions:

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design and implement public policies that overcome racism, discrimination, and bigotry?

What data-driven monitoring systems can assess the effectiveness of public policies against discrimination?

What governance mechanisms can ensure transparency and community participation in the use of data?

How to integrate feedback from communities into the review and continuous improvement of these policies?

4. WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES. Generating spaces for constructive dialogue between LRGs and communities that have systematically suffered from discrimination and racism is a fundamental component of participatory management against intolerance and extremism.

Panel Questions:

What are the characteristics of the conversation that takes place between LRG representatives and communities so that interaction is constructive, trust-building, and translates into effective initiatives against intolerance and discrimination?

How have affected communities been involved in the design, implementation, and evaluation of these initiatives?

Workshop Questions:

Which victim incident community engagement initiatives led by LRG stand out for their positive impacts in terms of equity and inclusion?

How can LRGs ensure that communities receive feedback on how their input into dialogues is being incorporated into policies?

5. LOCAL AND REGIONAL PUBLIC POLICIES. Responding to expressions of intolerance and hatred from LRGs requires an intersectoral and intersectional approach that reflects the diversity of society, and attends to all citizens in the realization of their rights on equal terms. In essence, it requires the political will to recognize the difference and the challenges it presents, internal collaboration between the different government agencies, and methodologies for the participation of stakeholders in the design and implementation of public policies that account for the particularities of the populations to whom they are addressed.

Panel Questions:

Which LRG experiences reflect a differential approach in the design and implementation of public policies that combat intolerance, racism and discrimination?

Workshop Questions:

What obstacles did the process present and what resources did the LRG need in the formulation and implementation of these public policies? How can LRGs coordinate efforts across sectors such as education,

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How were these policies designed to ensure the representation of populations most vulnerable to discrimination?

health, justice, and culture to implement comprehensive anti-discrimination policies?

How can innovative approaches, such as technology or public policy labs, be incorporated to combat discrimination at the local level?

6. INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION. In the fight against intolerance, racism, discrimination and extremism, the international community represents a fundamental resource for LRGs. It facilitates knowledge management on a global scale, informing and qualifying public policies, and is a guarantee of continuity in the face of changes in administration produced by political cycles.

Panel Questions:

How have multilateral action initiatives served to respond effectively from LRGs against racism, discrimination and extremism?

How have international organizations helped LRGs strengthen their inclusion and diversity policies?

Workshop Questions:

What are the main obstacles of resources and articulation that you face in this area?

How can international collaboration facilitate the multi-level articulations that are required to confront and overcome intolerance, racism, discrimination and extremism?