Sharing Cities Declaration: Cities' common principles and commitments

Barcelona Sharing Cities Summit, November 2018

(Version 24 October 2018)

Brief Explanation: The Declaration consists of a set of principles for sharing cities. Then, it has a second part (in the annexe) with a plan to support the implementation of the declaration and the creation of a task force. The principles depart from last year's Sharing Cities Summit in NYC and have been revised, expanded and updated with the cities. In particular, there are three new principles: one regarding platform qualities that allow citizens to differentiate between platform models, a second one regarding city sovereignty and cities mutual support when negotiating with digital platforms, and a third one about policies of support for the collaborative oriented platform economy collaborative oriented, according to this differentiation.
This current version of the Declaration of principles has integrated the responses of cities to the Summit survey and also incorporates general suggestions and comments from city consultations.

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Sharing Cities Declaration:

Cities' Common Principles and Commitments for City Sovereignty regarding the Platform Economy

Barcelona Sharing Cities Summit, November 2018

The Sharing Cities Summit Mayors and Deputy Mayors will gather from leading cities all around the world to discuss how the continuous growth of platform economies impacts on the life and economic development of the cities, as well as what innovative measures can be taken to meet the challenges and opportunities cities face.

Models of platform economy based on collaboration and sharing foster an atmosphere of vibrancy, innovation and economic prosperity for citizens and cities by creating opportunities for individuals and communities to interact, support and benefit from mutual engagements in shared interests. At the same time, some cases and models of platform economy are challenging cities' sovereignty. As a result of previous summits in Amsterdam 2016 and NYC 2017 , and the formal agreements of the Barcelona Summit in November 2018, the cities of …(name of the cities)… concurred on the following common Declaration of principles and commitments of the cities to take advantage of these opportunities and to face the challenges.

Platform models differentiation:

1. To distinguish between the different models of digital platforms regarding their functioning and impacts, in order to design public policies according to these differentiations.

Distinguish digital platforms and platform activity which are not built on truly collaborative models, from platform models that are collaborative and constitute opportunities for the city's economic activity. The set of qualities that characterise collaborative platforms and determine differences between platforms are: to host predominantly peer-to-peer relationships; to be based on fair economic models and retributions; to favor participative community governance; openness and transparency of its technology and data; inclusion by providing equal services to the different segments of the city inhabitants avoiding any discrimination; and responsibility towards negative impact.

Labour:

2. Empower people to have opportunities to earn or increase their income through new work agreements and adapted fiscality without contributing to social precariousness or constituting an administrative burden.

3. Ensure fair, legally compliant and timely compensation. Provide fair working conditions and access to benefits and rights for workers (earnings maximization, minimum or regulated wages, income security, wage predictability, protection against arbitrary behaviour, rejection of excessive workplace surveillance, right to log off, collective bargaining).

Inclusion:

4. To prevent discrimination and bias by supporting fair and equal access to work for people of all incomes, genders and backgrounds.

Public protection:

5. Ensure and support health, safety and security standards along with effective institutional mechanisms in order to protect them.

Environmental sustainability:

6. To promote sustainable practices less oriented on the marketization and commodification of goods than on shared infrastructure, to share within the framework of a circular economy, to foster and promote the development of these activities in order to reduce emissions and waste. All of it taking into account the rebound effect it might generate, and on the basis of more efficient use of resources.

Data sovereignty and citizens' digital rights:

7. To protect citizens' digital rights through the implementation of Technological Sovereignty policies and ethical digital standards (include the rights of privacy, security, information self-determination and neutrality, giving citizens a choice about what happens to their digital identity, who uses their data online, and for which purposes). To promote policies in order that the personal data is controlled by citizens themselves, and are protected from being misused, collected or shared without explicit consent. To guarantee that digital platforms enable algorithmic accountability and the portability of users' data, digital identity and reputations. To ensure that cities are able to access a privacy-preserving manner relevant data from firms operating in their territories (such as information about transportation, safety, labour, and all potential public interest information). To favor that city data should be managed as a common good to solve urban challenges.

City sovereignty:

8. Guarantee respect for the legal jurisdictions of cities given the potential disruption from the digital platforms.
   - Establish negotiation frameworks between cities and platforms to ensure respect for legality and local regulations.
   - Ensure transparency in operations and transactions in relation to data transfer from the platform.
   - Work together among cities to encourage changes in regulatory and framework policies in the digital sphere, in order to facilitate compatible economic activity and protect users' rights, as well as defending the habitability of the urban sphere.
   - Promote digital protocols in order to guarantee compliance with the regulations of each city.

- Suitability of a owner and user registration number to trace any activity in the digital sphere
- Sharing inspection instruments, mechanisms and techniques between cities.
- Making digital platforms liable for their infringements, and responsible to respect the local law and regulations.
- Require that platforms ask for permission before operating in a city. To agree with the city on the appropriate way to operate in each given context and in strict accordance to neighbourhood composition, economic conditions and community needs.

Economic promotion:

9. To promote the development of local collaborative economic ecosystems and particularly small and medium enterprises (SME), based on positive impact in cities —as described in the first principle— through entrepreneurship support programs, participative tools, funding or other promotion tools.

General interest:

10. To preserve the Right to the City and Urban Commons, strengthen communities, to protect General Interest, public space, and basic human rights, such as access to affordable housing.

Annexe: Action plan and task force structure to support the development of concrete actions of collaboration between cities to support the Declaration during 2018-2019

The action plan linked to the Declaration consists of an action task force and structure to support the continuation of communications and collaborations between cities after the Summit and until the following Summit in 2019. It is a plan of concrete actions facilitating that the Principles of the Declaration are preserved by cities. Not all the actions might involve all the cities signing the Declaration.

It is a outcome oriented. It is a collaboration structure built around concrete actions among cities, **not intended to be a generic structured network, but to draw on specific actions taken**. It is an active flexible plan that will be developed according to suggestions from cities and the work at the Summit.

The sustainability of the task force is based on a pool of resources by cities and the establishment of concrete collaborations. The minimum requirement for cities is to facilitate a contact person in each city as a point of reference for the task force.

The current lines of action are being considered and might be expanded:
- **Negotiation standards and cities' support mechanism:** Definition of a common standard of minimum requirements when negotiating with platforms, and ways of supporting each city in its negotiation. Development of shared and coordinated actions between cities towards platforms in case platform do not fulfill this baseline.
- **Lobby:** Develop common procedures to lobby other levels of government, so that they consider the cities' points of view and the cities' requirements in the regulation of platforms. In this regard, the task force will facilitate a connection network, as for instance the current collaboration between 13 cities to lobby holidays rental to the EC (Responsible Tourism Network), in order that other cities may join the network. This network and the work it is developing at the EU level on turism rental could be a good study case for the application of the Declaration approach. Besides the holiday rental EU lobby, the task force will favor the exploration and promotion of any additional forms of lobbying needed for other parts of the platform economy.

E.g. consumer protection, digital rights, labour rights or more generally, the role and responsibilities of platforms.

- ○ **Criteria to differentiate models:** Establish criteria of differentiation of platform qualities that could be operational for public policy making. Some cities like Barcelona have already some criteria in coherence with Principle 1 of the Declaration.
- ○ **Promotion program:** To favor the diffusion, internationalization and crows landing of platforms, so that they are socially responsible. To promote common challenges connected to the cities' common interest.
- ○ **Data sovereignty and citizens' digital rights:** Regarding actions on digital rights, the task force will facilitate a connection with the Cities for Digital Rights Declaration promoted by Barcelona, NYC and Amsterdam, and Barcelona's ethical digital standards of Barcelona, and the expansion of the collaboration with other cities on digital rights policies. Regarding actions on data sovereignty, the task force will work for the expansion of data policies in line with the EU General Data Protection Regulation.

Task force to increase communication, exchange and coordination of action between cities:

- ■ Plan:
  - To have a coordination node hosted in Barcelona for the next year (2018-2019) that will foster ongoing reciprocity between the cities until the next Summit. The coordination node will be hosted at the InnoBa center of socio-economic innovation of Barcelona City Council. Barcelona City Hall will guarantee a minimum structure for this node but other cities are wellcome to help keeping the task force active.
  - To have a contact person for each city.
  - To hold a cuatrimestral video conference among city contacts available.
  - To aggregate relevant and useful expertise and prepare reports that inform the given courses of action.
  - To keep a open data portal (already in Alpha version stage: https://sharingcities.thedata.place) as a reference source on data and the platform economy in cities.
  - Set of seminars on the topics open to all cities linked to the Declaration Principles (provided by Sharing Cities Alliance).
  - To promote the use of ALIX, a dataset of policies by cities (provided by Sharing Cities Alliance)
  - To hold an annual Sharing Cities Summit between cities, and feed the 2019 edition with collaboration established during the year of the plan.
  - To promote the organization of an annual exhibition/networking between positive platforms/collaborative innovations (connected to the annual city Summit or connected to the Smart City Congress). This 2018 edition will launch a Sharing Cities Pavillion within the Smart City Expo (SCE) that will be a first edition of this exhibition/networking event and could be replicated outside or inside the SCE.

Sustainability of the plan:
- Resources from Barcelona (city council and UOC) to support the initial phase until the next Summit.

- Pool of resources between cities.
- Collaboration agreement with Sharing Cities Alliance to connect the plan with its activities. In particular,, the organization of a set of seminars open to all of the cities on the topics of the Declaration Principles and providing access to ALIX, a dataset of city policies in the field.
- Collaboration with the Sharing Cities Sweden program.
- Collaboration within the framework of the International centre for innovation and knowledge transfer on the social and solidarity economy (C.I.T.I.E.S.) http://cities-ess.org . C.I.T.I.E.S. is a new collaborative resources launched by Seoul, Montreal and Barcelona to facilitate policy, innovation and knowledge transference among cities on the topic of Social and Solidarity Economy
- Establishment of collaboration with research institutions and projects, such as the Europea project PLUS and others outside Europe.
- Application for an EU-funded project between European cities (25 cities) in March 2019 (UOC will coordinate the application process).