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Cities Coalition for Digital Rights to update its Declaration for the age of AI

International Digital Rights Days on 10&11 December

Douala becomes the coalition's first African signatory

The Cities Coalition for Digital Rights (CC4DR) will update its founding Declaration in 2027 to address challenges that did not exist when it was written in 2018, from deepfakes to the attention economy and artificial intelligence. The decision was taken at the coalition's first General Assembly as a nonprofit organization, held on 5 November at Smart City Expo World Congress in Barcelona, where member cities adopted the 2027 roadmap.

Top of the agenda: a Declaration for today's digital world

The CC4DR Declaration sets out the principles that member cities commit to uphold in the digital environment. Since it was written, in 2018, new societal and technological challenges have emerged, from attention predation to deepfakes or more broadly artificial intelligence. In 2027, a dedicated taskforce, led by the Board and open to all member cities, will draft an updated Declaration.

> "Cities are on the front line: it is in our streets, in our communities that citizens feel the impact of technology on their rights every day. Our Declaration must keep pace with the digital world we live in, from artificial intelligence to the platforms that shape public life. In 2027 our member cities will write the next chapter together," said Emmanuel Sallaberry, President of CC4DR, Vice-President for Digital at Bordeaux Métropole and Mayor of Talence.

An ambitious roadmap for 2027

The roadmap's other priorities are to grow the network by welcoming new members and partners; pursuing the city-to-city learning program and giving a louder voice for cities, by joining events, building partnerships and of course, planning for a successful International Digital Rights Days (10 & 11 December), its flagship event.

International Digital Rights Days: 10 & 11 December

The International Digital Rights Days (IDRD) are held every year on 10 and 11 December to coincide with Human Rights Day on 10 December.

They bring together public institutions, civil society, experts, businesses and citizens around one question: how is digital technology changing our lives, and what are our rights in this new era?

Since their launch in 2023, the IDRD have brought together hundreds of event around the world, from Toronto to Douala and from New York to Glasgow.

This year, dozens of cities and organizations are again taking part, with workshops, conferences, debates and cultural events that celebrate digital rights and promote a shared digital culture.

Discover all the events on the map: internationaldigitalrightsdays.com #IDRD26

A strong week in Barcelona and a first African city

The General Assembly crowned a busy week for the coalition at SCEWC.

- CC4DR's newly elected board was officially welcomed by Ramon Roca, President of SCEWC.
- Ugo Valenti, Managing Director of SCEWC and Emmanuel Sallaberry signed a three-year partnership agreement covering visibility, joint content and the place of digital rights at the congress.
- Mr. Roger Mbassa Ndine, Mayor of Douala (Cameroon), and Emilia Saiz, Secretary General of UCLG, signed the CC4DR Declaration at the coalition's booth.
- The coalition co-organized three sessions on the congress' Impact Tech stage.

> "Douala is proud to sign the Declaration. As our city goes digital, we want every resident to benefit, and nobody's rights to be left behind. African cities have a lot to bring to this global movement," said Roger Mbassa Ndine, Mayor of Douala.
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> "Our partnership with the Cities Coalition for Digital Rights will help keep citizens at the heart of the debate on urban innovation for the next three years," said Ugo Valenti, Managing Director of SCEWC.

Notes to editors

CC4DR Board

- Emmanuel Sallaberry, President: Vice-President for Digital at Bordeaux Métropole and Mayor of Talence
- Rodrigo Passos, General Secretary: Deputy Mayor for Digital Transformation and Citizen Services, City of Porto
- Paul Leinster, Treasurer: Digital Councillor, City of Glasgow
- Rodrigo Cunha, Vice-President: Mayor of Maceió

About the Cities Coalition for Digital Rights

Launched in November 2018 by Amsterdam, Barcelona and New York, the Cities Coalition for Digital Rights (CC4DR) is a global network of 60 members, cities and institutions, working together to advance digital rights. As the democratic institutions closest to residents, cities are best placed to turn principles into everyday services, and a global network lets them share experience and speak with one voice in the forums where digital rules are set. Members stand by five principles: universal and equal access and digital literacy; privacy, data protection and security; transparency, accountability and non-discrimination; participatory democracy, diversity and inclusion; and open and ethical digital service standards.

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