



## **The Barcelona Manifesto**

A citizens' declaration for fair, humane and sustainable development

**In our capacity as promoters of the Universal Forum of Cultures, we would like to exert our responsibility and reflect the sentiment of the many citizens who have experienced and participated in this event by making the following declaration in the hope that it will be heard by the general public, institutions and governments:**

**We,**

women, men;

children, teenagers, adults;

with different interests, knowledge, beliefs and visions of the world;

from different cities, towns, and villages;

from 180 countries throughout the five continents;

as individuals and groups;

as members of social, cultural, religious and political movements;

as representatives of humanitarian, aid and cooperation organizations;

as actors of international civil society;

with the support of the United Nations, urban associations, trade unions, companies,

universities, foundations, the media and local authorities;

**We,**

reaffirming the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity;

reaffirming our commitment to the Millennium Development Goals proposed by the United Nations to fight against poverty and social exclusion;

taking into account the conclusions reached at the latest editions of the Porto Alegre World Social Forum, the Davos World Economic Forum, the Kyoto Climate Summit, the Sustainable Development Summits of Rio de Janeiro and Johannesburg, and the Urban Forums of Nairobi and Barcelona;



have laid the foundations in Barcelona to jointly embark on an effective path towards a world that is fairer, safer, richer, more diverse and more sustainable, towards a world at peace.

We

have come together over the course of 141 days to contemplate, listen, debate, create, enjoy, disagree and agree about things that matter to us; we have presented ideas and initiatives, adopted agreements and commitments, endorsed manifestos and declarations, and established projects to promote peace, sustainable development and cultural diversity.

We

see the Universal Forum of Cultures – Barcelona 2004 as a new opportunity for people to learn about the problems affecting today's world and to help to resolve them, as an experience which, through dialogue and communion, will allow us to achieve new levels of knowledge and take actions that will lead to a better world

We,

from the perspective of our own identity,

*recognize* that we form part of the one planet, a small, finite and interdependent planet that, for the first time ever is threatened by us and the menace of nuclear and environmental destruction;

*recognize* that the current distribution of wealth and power excludes many people around the world;

*recognize* that we need new institutions to work towards the achievement of a different world order based on justice, equity, negotiation and consensus;

*recognize* that the world needs to radically change the path it is currently following in order to ensure the survival of humanity and the planet.



We

*condemn* the poverty that besets 1 billion people;

*condemn* war;

*condemn* the repression of human rights that exists in many countries throughout the world;

*condemn* the exploitation of people, and in particular children;

*condemn* the exclusion of women from political, economic and cultural decision-making processes;

*condemn* all types of violence, in particular violence against women, children and the most vulnerable members of our society;

*condemn* the use of religion and the name of God as a pretext for war;

*condemn* the restriction of freedoms in the name of safety;

*condemn* the hypocrisy of those who do not respect what they sign and declare;

*condemn* censorship, obstacles that stand in the way of free speech, and the use of the media as a political tool and means of manipulation;

*condemn* corruption in all its forms and manifestations;

*condemn* the impunity of perpetrators of crimes against humanity, the environment and cultural heritage;

*condemn* the unchecked growth of cities;

*condemn* the plundering of natural resources, and particularly that of water, land, forests, fish and energy;

*condemn* the disappearance of languages and forms of cultural expression;

*condemn* ignorance as a form of oppression;

*condemn* the social and economic roots of unwanted migratory flows;

*condemn* the use of people's sentiments as a pretext for separating countries and bringing peoples into conflict.



We

*promote* human dignity, understood as the right of every human being to dignified living conditions (food, housing, health, education, work, etc.).

*promote* human rights as a framework for peaceful coexistence in the world;

*promote* dialogue and negotiation as the main regulator of relationships between countries, communities and individuals;

*promote* individual freedoms and democracy as the best model of peaceful political coexistence;

*promote* the universalization of the values of the welfare society, including the generalization of distributive taxes to generate an equal distribution of wealth and power in the world and to create a more just form of globalization;

*promote* cultural diversity as part of the heritage of humanity;

*promote* culture and science as the basis for social progress;

*promote* the fulfillment of political and economic commitments aimed at creating a global ethic;

*promote* the universalization of the separation and independence of executive, legislative and judicial organs, as well as economic, political and media power;

*promote* the universalization of the segregation of politics and religion;

*promote* the establishment of an international legal system that will try crimes against humanity, cultural heritage and environmental heritage, and violations of global economic agreements.



**We,**

following 141 days of reflection and dialogue,  
and taking into consideration and supporting the many initiatives, declarations and institutions created or dynamized during the Forum's working sessions,

**Propose dialogue and negotiation as a paradigm for a new modernity**

*Propose a new modernity based on dialogue, negotiation and consensus, and not on conflict or war. We accept that differences, confrontation and conflict may exist as a result of differing and legitimate interests, but we advocate that the world, governors and citizens alike, should aspire to resolving their discrepancies through negotiation and consensus. Peace is something that is built. It is built through preventative policies, and it is learnt and created through the reconciliation of parties in conflict. Peace is a reality which has to be built on a daily basis, and it is we who are responsible for gradually bringing about the changes needed.*

*Propose a new modernity based on critical, active, demanding and free citizens, citizens living together peacefully with dialogue and consensus, in a framework of cultural diversity, and in democratic societies based on the principles of social justice and solidarity.*

We advocate:

the creation of the International Human Rights Network to promote the adoption of the Charter of Emerging Human Rights;

the creation of a permanent East-West Forum;

the extension of the UNHCR Convention Plus initiative for post-conflict reconciliation and the provision of a Reconciliation Fund;

the Peace Camp as a tool for intercultural dialogue between children;

interreligious dialogue based on the conclusions of the Parliament of the World's Religions;

the establishment of a linguistic diversity research center in Barcelona;

the signing of the Barcelona Manifest for Peaceful Coexistence

the 2007 Women's Agenda.



**We propose a culture that provides a basis for better forms of coexistence**

*We propose* a culture in which the humanities, artistic creation and scientific thought converge, overcoming the unproductive dichotomy between humanistic and scientific knowledge, a culture that facilitates progress in the creation of skills and tools for better understanding and more effective action.

*We propose* that culture play a more central role in shaping human development, providing a foundation for better ways of living and coexisting. Culture is an irreplaceable form of social capital in the model of sustainable development for cities and societies.

*We propose* that the role of culture be highlighted in addressing present and future challenges. Learning to live in freedom, to take maximum advantage of creativity, to strengthen democracy, to prioritize development and social justice, to promote the inclusion of all parties in the benefits of progress and their participation in collective decisions—in all these matters culture is of vital importance.

*We propose* that all of the world's countries recognize cultural diversity as part of humanity's heritage. Diversity is an expression of freedom, and no cultural practice can ever violate any human right.

*We propose* that cultural goods not be treated simply as merchandise.

*We propose* that shared memories should be conserved and fomented as the creators of community.

*We propose* that the media—which transmit information and knowledge as well as creating opinion—exercise their public function freely and rigorously, protected from any form of censorship, and based on the principle of political, ideological and economic independence.

*We propose* that education renew its emphasis on individual and collective development, and that continuous education and training should be a priority in public policy.



*We propose* that understanding and recognition of our biological nature be promoted given its importance in determining the pathways and limits of individual and collective human behavior in the rational, moral, cultural and social spheres.

*We propose* that resources be allocated to create a society that is well informed about science so that citizens can understand scientific issues and make appropriate decisions concerning their future.

We support:

The commitment made by local governments within the framework of the Agenda 21 for Culture;

The 2005 UNESCO Global Convention in favor of cultural diversity as a part of humanity's heritage;

The creation of the Long-Distance Cultural Alliance on Cultural Rights and Human Development, an Internet portal linking human rights and culture;

The creation of the Science and Society Academy;

The proclamation of the Barcelona Manifesto concerning journalistic ethics, the defense of press freedom, and the struggle against all forms of censorship and manipulation of information;

The creation of the Global Observatory on the State of Information;

The creation of a world secretariat for cooperation between regulators in the audiovisual sector;

The declaration of the IOC in favor of a culture of peace and fair play in sports;

The declaration on tourism, cultural diversity and sustainable development;

The restoration of the medina of Tetuan as a symbol of cooperation in the protection of cultural heritage and memory.



We propose that progress take place in a manner that respects human dignity

*We propose* an economic development model governed by a system of global ethics based on the principle of solidarity.

*We propose* the universalization of the values applied in the process of European construction, that is, development of the welfare state, human rights, coexistence in diversity, and an emphasis on rule of law rather than force.

*We propose* that human rights, equitable distribution of wealth, and universal access to basic resources, including income, be treated as essential to global progress.

*We propose* a better distribution of income through the taxation of large corporate profits.

*We propose* that companies become active agents for social change and that corporate social responsibility take the form of a commitment to engage with major contemporary problems, particularly those that concern the environment, labor rights and fair trade.

*We propose* the progressive *deprivatization* of natural resources, and that air, water and energy be regarded as public goods.

*We propose* a new form of progress that bridges the growing gap between rich and poor countries.

*We propose* a progressive reduction of levels of protection for agriculture in rich countries and a temporary increase in aid, with an initial commitment to progressive liberalization of industrial imports to developing countries.

*We propose* a form of progress that does not wait any longer to address hunger and poverty and to eliminate the cause of many forms of social violence in the world, an approach in line with the latest initiatives undertaken by the United Nations.

*We propose* that governments meet their solidarity commitments by donating 0.7% of GDP to developing countries.





*We propose* a form of progress in which the security of societies is based on the globalization of social justice and the dignity of individuals is regarded as a necessary condition for peace.

We support:

The creation of the Global Observatory on Corporate Social Responsibility to promote co-responsibility on the part of economic actors in building an equitable world order;

The signing of the Global Convention on the Right to Water and the endorsement of the *Water Is Not a Privilege* campaign;

The commitment to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and the campaign to raise awareness of these goals in Spain;

The support given to the 2005 International Year of the Microcredit and the initiation of a campaign on the right to credit;

Research on and use of renewable energies;

That UNESCO regard the Declaration on Dignified Work as part of the heritage of humanity;

The creation of a stable network of ombudsmen to defend the rights of citizens;

The universal right to a minimum income: the guarantee and foundation of a new concept of citizenship.

**We propose that global institutions be reformed to respond to the challenges of globalization and move in the direction of global governance**

*We propose* that global institutions play a more central role in responding to bloody conflicts around the world and to the multiple faces of terrorism, above all by strengthening their capacity to prevent conflicts, act as mediators and promote reconciliation.

*We propose* a new commitment on the part of governments to the United Nations aimed at making the organization more effective in mediating conflict, promoting equitable progress, and ensuring the universalization of democracy and human rights.



*We propose* a commitment by governments, through international cooperation programs, to the development of democratic and transparent institutions at all levels and in all countries, with a view to ensuring that democracy is not only a value, but also an indispensable practice.

*We propose* that—in response to the globalization of arms and drug trafficking, tax havens, crimes against humanity and terrorism, crimes against the environment and cultural heritage—global institutions be supported by an effective system of international justice, and that we begin to move in the direction of a global democratic government.

*We propose* that global institutions foment the creation of social and participatory networks that ensure greater security and support the construction of a lasting peace.

*We propose* the effective separation of political and religious power.

We support:

The creation of an anti-poverty fund linked to government initiatives in the fight against hunger;

The promotion of the campaign for a fairer approach to globalization;

The reform of the United Nations to give civil society a more prominent role.

**We propose that government be brought closer to citizens by reinforcing decentralization processes and the role of local governments**

*We propose* that the fundamental importance of cities in organizing coexistence be recognized: it is in cities that the negative effects of globalization become apparent, and where the main opportunities for progress and human cooperation are created.

*We propose* that cities and local governments be granted the political and economic capacity to exercise their function as places for encounter, exchange and the expression of diversity.



*We propose* that city governments, as the authorities most closely connected to everyday life, have access to greater resources to respond to current and future needs and demands and to advance towards greater social cohesion and improved public welfare.

*We propose* that all people, including immigrants, have their political, civil and social rights recognized, particularly as they relate to employment, housing, health, education and political participation; and that cities, as the destination points for migratory movements, obtain the resources needed to ensure that rights are exercised.

*We propose* that immigration be treated as an inherent part of global dynamics requiring an attitude of respect and solidarity on the part of recipient countries, and responsibility and negotiation in countries of origin.

*We propose* that, given their unstoppable expansion as humanity's main habitat, cities be given a greater role in global institutions.

*We propose* that cities generalize the use of participatory mechanisms that involve civil society in government and decision-making processes.

We support:

The promotion by the United Nations of an international treaty that guarantees a framework of economic, financial and management autonomy for local authorities;

The creation by United Cities and Local Governments and UN-HABITAT of an institution to monitor urban democracy.

**We propose the universalization of the principles and values underlying the Universal Forum of Cultures – Barcelona 2004, and we express our commitment to work for their application in the future**



*We propose* to ensure the continuity of the commitments acquired before UNESCO in the General Assembly of November 1997 by setting in motion new editions of the Universal Forum of Cultures – Barcelona 2004, and we reaffirm the principles and values that provide the inspiration for future editions of the event.

*We establish* the Universal Forum of Cultures Foundation as an institution that will promote and support new editions of the event and work to ensure the fulfillment of the Forum's founding principles.

*We propose* that the United Nations, UNESCO and United Cities and Local Governments participate in the Universal Forum of Cultures Foundation to ensure the event's continuity and the adherence of future editions to the Forum's founding principles.

*We entrust* to the city of Monterrey (host of Forum 2007), with the mandate to give continuity to the principles and values of the Universal Forum of Cultures, the legacy of Forum Barcelona 2004, outcome of the labor, aspirations, study, experience, participation, enthusiasm and hope of many people who have in common a concern for the future of our planet and its inhabitants.

*We call on* international bodies and governments and authorities the world over to give principles aimed at promoting peace, sustainability and diversity a more central role in policy, and we are confident that the conclusions and proposals that have emerged from Forum Barcelona 2004 will be incorporated in the working agendas of non-governmental organizations, governments and United Nations institutions.

Proclaimed at the Universal Forum of Cultures – Barcelona 2004  
September 26, 2004