

CONEXIÓN.CILA

RESULTS

CiLA
CIUDADES EN ACCIÓN

COLLABORATIVE RESPONSES TO THE COLLECTIVE CHALLENGES OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH



CONEXIÓN.CILA BOGOTÁ

Conexión.CiLA is a space for co-creation designed to work in an interactive way on the future of our cities and to generate collaborative responses to the collective challenges of the cities of the global south.



Jorge Tadeo Lozano University, Bogotá.

From CiLA, we understand that every crisis is an opportunity, and governed by the principles of democratic governance: collaborative, innovative and transformative, we bring together officials, local government teams, civil society organizations and members of academia from the global south to exchange experiences and reflect on the multiple and tangled problems faced by cities - climate change, racialization, exclusion, xenophobia, forced migration, housing shortages, violence, representation crisis, accessibility, development and urban planning, among others -.

METHODOLOGY CONEXIÓN.CILA

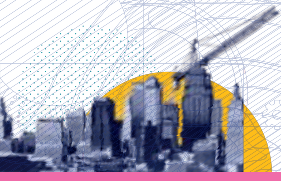
1



1st ACTIVITY

What are the challenges for cities in the South in relation to Environmental Democracy, Innovative Democracy and Diverse Democracy?

2




2nd ACTIVITY

What do we want the cities of the South in relation to Environmental Democracy, Innovative Democracy and Diverse Democracy?

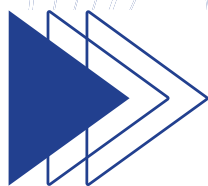
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3rd ACTIVITY

How do we solve the challenge to achieve the ideal city we want?



Conexión.CILA was a workshop for exchange and work that included working spaces as well as playful spaces to build trust among the participants through play. For this, a 4D mapping was made with elements of the CILA Manifesto in order to make visible the current reality of the political and social system of the global south, as well as to prepare the participants for the context in which they were invited to participate. In this way, it was possible to gain insights into the social fabric in order to enter into the issue of the situation of cities and move towards the ideal city. Specifically, the roles of the armed forces, the media, the state, the environment, indigenous peoples, companies, etc. were randomly distributed to some participants to interpret and recreate the manifesto.



CHALLENGES OF CITIES IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Generating institutional strategies for cities to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Promote citizen participation in the development and design of environmental policies.

Develop content on environmental education and climate action with a local perspective.

Include marginalised groups in the design and implementation of environmentally focused policies.

Developing policies with an environmental perspective.



Develop a strong institutional structure to ensure adequate implementation of environmental, diversity and inclusion policies.

Implement strategies to remove existing barriers to accessing decision-making spaces and move towards a more inclusive democracy.

Develop strategies to end the discriminatory system in the public sector.

Develop strategies to decolonise democracies.

Develop strategies to generate an active and dynamic citizen culture that builds agreements and consensus.

Addressing barriers to participation in traditional mechanisms.

Strengthening of leaderships that promote rights and differential approaches.

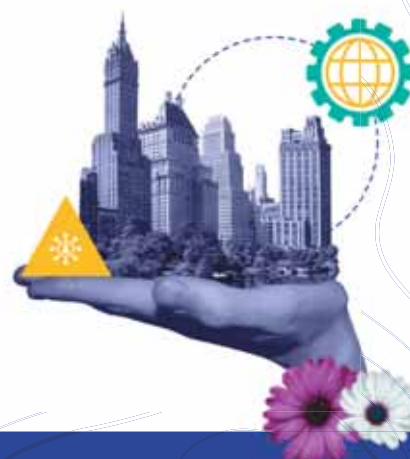
Developing strategies to strengthen citizens' trust in local government.


Strengthening educational institutions for popular education in the South.

Develop a method for designing policy with a differential approach.

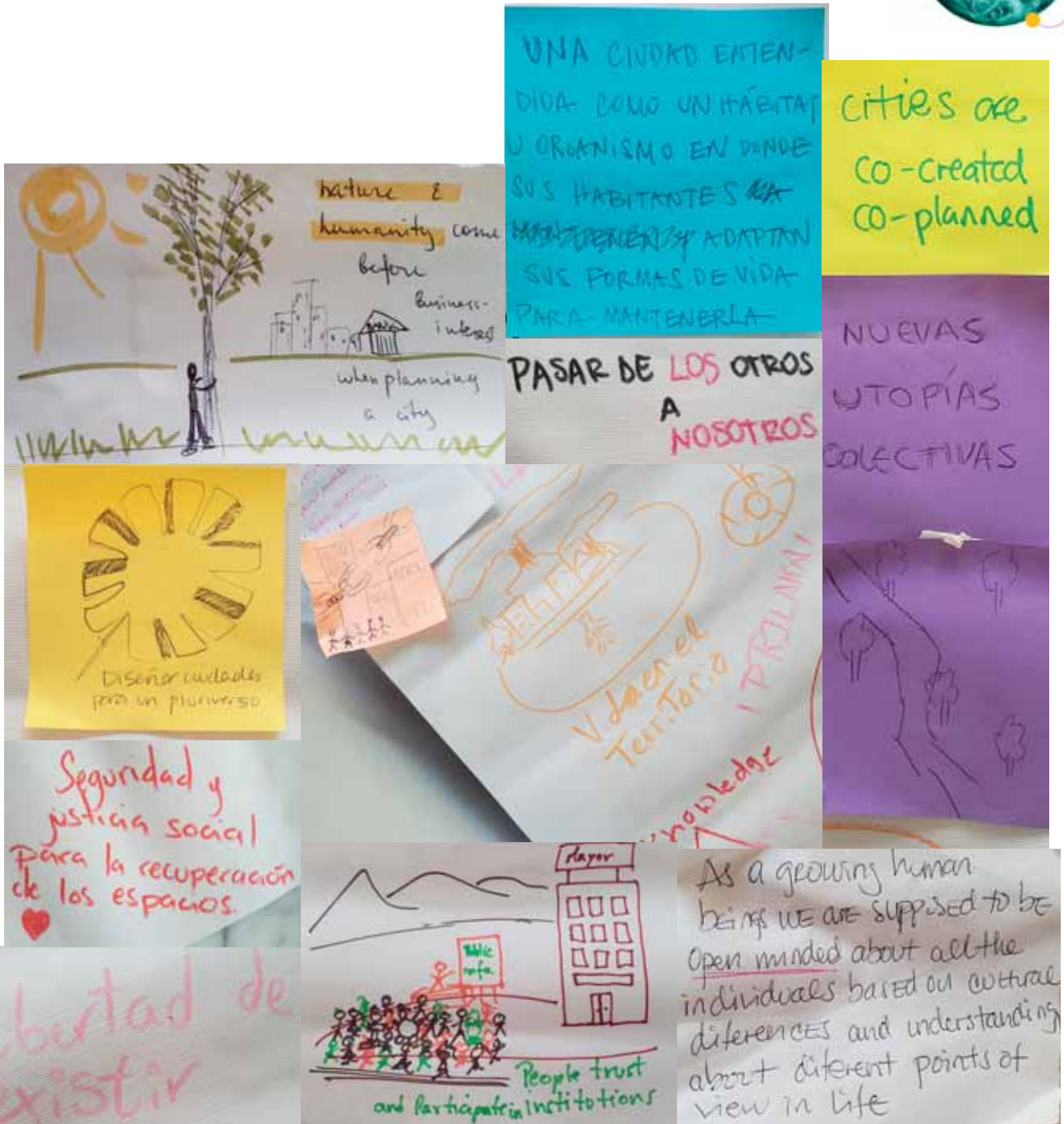
Strengthen a culture of participation so that citizens can present themselves as active and dynamic actors in order to build agreements and consensus.

Improve communication channels to strengthen the promotion of participatory processes.



NOTE: the challenges with the symbol  were those prioritised in plenary.

THE IDEAL CITY



In this way the participants expressed elements for the construction of the ideal cities of the global south in relation to the thematic axes of CILA.



INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR CITIES OF THE SOUTH

Challenge

Strengthening educational institutions for popular education in the South

Goal: Including popular education in innovative democracy



1 Building capacity and generating resources

Issues to be taken into account:

- Autonomy: be aware of the "impasses" of institutional models to improve the quality of popular education processes.
- Partnership: government and NGOs can work together
- Build bridges and link needed knowledge and volunteer educators.
- Include diversity of voices and knowledge. Ensure participation of university students in design.

2 Community work

Issues to be taken into account:

- Local issues: work on issues that are a priority for the community.
- Methodology: develop methodologies to generate an aggregation of participation
- Create a democracy hackathon to involve the community in the challenges.

3 Working with governments

Issues to be taken into account:

- Build bridges from local governments so that neighbours can express their needs.
- Create a dialogue to involve women and youth.
- Create communication strategies
- Empowering local communities through active methodological transfer.

Long-term goals:

Recognise and prioritise popular education in terms of work, funding, resources, etc.
Create spaces for participation between the government and the community to strengthen dialogue.



Challenge

Develop a strong institutional structure to ensure adequate implementation of environmental, diversity and inclusion policies.



Goal: Create an institutional structure that guarantees adequate implementation of environmental policies.



Final Product: a citizens' organization that is part of the local environmental institutionality with real and effective competences.

Activities to be carried out:

1

Campaign to influence local government with the aim of legally creating this body

2

Legal approval of the body

3

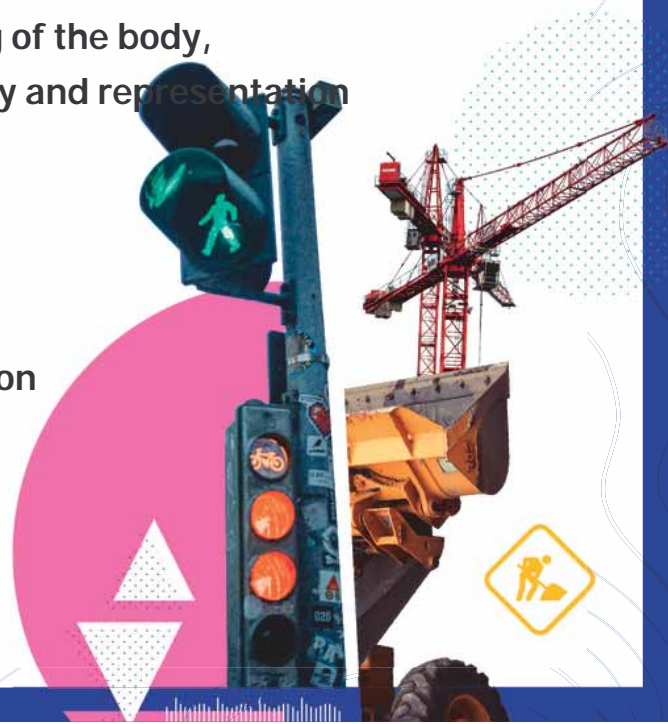
Bases for the creation and functioning of the body, including: convocation, rotation, parity and representation of territorial realities.

4

Execute the Call

5

Implement a strategy of civic education



Challenge

Developing strategies to decolonise democracies



Goal: To achieve a transition from representative democracy to open democracy, exploring emerging forms of citizenship from the South.



Final Product: To manage a toolbox of citizen participation different from the hegemonic one, through innovative and exploratory co-creation of emerging citizenships.

Activities to be carried out:

- 1 Collaborative mapping of citizenship processes to acknowledge human diversity
- 2 Creating dialogues to imagine possible futures
- 3 Propose new policy technologies for institutional redesign that do not replicate power relations
- 4 To build alternative development models with a territorial approach



Challenge

Promote citizen participation in the development and design of environmental public policies



Goal: To involve more citizens and communities from diverse backgrounds in environmental policy making.



Final Product: Toolkit for institutions, civil society, and the media.

Activities to be carried out:

- 1 Designing the toolbox. Creating tools and recommendations. Best practice manuals.
- 2 Stakeholder and experience mapping.
- 3 Find opportunities for the toolbox to reach more people.
- 4 Identify the different forms of participation that communities have at the local level.
- 5 Research: analysis of what has already been done, logics of community organization, what has not been done.
- 6 Develop the accessibility of the formats in which the Toolbox is disseminated.
- 7 Create a test to identify how inclusive institutions are.
- 8 Validate and evaluate the toolbox with communities.
- 9 Develop a launch and outreach campaign.



Challenge

Strengthen a culture of participation so that citizens can present themselves as active and dynamic actors in order to build agreements and consensus



Goal: Develop participatory processes and mechanisms to address closed states and social apathy.

1 Networking

1. Regular meetings with potential allies/partners
2. Random calls for regular public discussions
3. Strategic alliances to strengthen the use of participatory mechanisms
4. Set a "public hour" inviting families, dissidents, private individuals and officials to the streets.

2 Civic education

1. Include deliberative processes in schools
2. Generate spaces for participatory exercises within schools.
3. Training on the importance of participation in school curricula.
4. Citizen participation laws with a right-to-participate approach
5. Advocate for laws and policies that require participatory mechanisms
6. Sanctions for simulated hindrance to citizen participation



3 Civic participation

1. Mechanisms of local, community participation to demonstrate the potential of participation.
2. Reclaiming participation as a form of political work that has a more sustainable and effective value in authoritarian populism.
3. Identify pilot organizations and communities to create spaces for community organization to solve specific community problems.
4. All educated and organized civil society monitors the implementation of laws to improve justice, freedom and dignified space for all sectors of society.
5. Education and programs to ensure social justice
6. Conducting territorial workshops on the value of the public and the relevance of discussion for decision making and daily life

4 Structure for social participation

1. Create social platforms that enable participation to be a constant demand
2. Building social capacities to use mechanisms of citizen participation for the defence of human rights
3. Diversification of processes and methodologies in order to achieve more pleasant spaces for participation.
4. Extending participatory processes to a wider range of people

5 Working with public officials

1. Building capacity of practitioners and activists to meet decision-makers
2. Working with public officials to change behaviours that enable open government
3. Strategies for the political cost of hindering the right to citizen participation
4. Joint advocacy action between public officials, civil society organizations and academics to demand openness from governments for decision making

6 Develop mobilisation campaigns

1. Communication campaign to showcase the benefits of citizen participation
2. Creation of hybrid tools accompanied by close communication
3. Create mechanisms that are incident, decisive and binding
4. Generate greater incentive for country-signed open government plans to be implemented
5. Create alternative alliances of open government plans from the Global South



Challenge

Implement strategies to remove existing barriers to accessing decision-making spaces and move towards a more inclusive democracy

Goal: Increase public awareness of the importance of inclusive participation in decision-making spaces.



Final product: A popular education programme to create a common understanding of the importance of inclusiveness in decision-making processes

Activities to be carried out:

- Promote networks that connect citizen groups with similar interests in the public agenda.
- Festival of Diversity (No Fear)
- Face-to-face citizen programmes. Train community facilitators
- Disseminate formal spaces for participation
- Certified by decision-makers
- Co-create spaces for the community, authorities and decision-makers.
- Online and offline campaigns through intermediary organizations to encourage participation in decision making.

STEP-BY-STEP:



- 1 Mapping barriers
- 2 Mapping citizens' perceptions
- 3 Create an inclusive index of participatory democracy. The same co-created with citizens
- 4 Creating safe spaces for political participation
- 5 Develop programmes for citizen auditing



CONCLUDING REMARKS

talk about differences and similarities in the South.

Conexión.CILA was a first approach to the work that CILA intends to do to **diagnose the challenges and lines of action of the cities of the global south, in order to generate knowledge** in line with the priority programmatic agendas for civil society organizations, cities and academia from and for the south.

The meeting was the first face-to-face activity of the consortium and proved to be a very rich space in terms of cultural, ideological, sectoral and geographical diversities. This was significant in terms of dynamising the space, in terms of complexity, but reinforced our belief in the **shared challenges that unite our South** as well as the need to work on the differences and the ways in which we build alternative and innovative responses.

Conexión.CILA allowed us to begin to **rethink solutions from and for the South** to central dilemmas of cities such as the democratization of democracy to break down barriers and move towards more diverse, inclusive and sustainable democracies; education as a key tool, advocacy regarding the mechanisms of agenda design and public policies; to value the instances of participation and citizen culture as an active and dynamic actor, in order to build agreements and consensus.

In **Conexión.CILA** we revive the **transformative power of the Global South** to innovate its democratic practices and effective political action. In this framework, CILA reaffirms the need to **promote the voices of the Global South** through the exchange of learning and experiences, the generation of knowledge (publications, tools, methodologies) and the CILA community.

CILA COMMUNITY



It was created with the following aims:

- 1 To generate a safe space for the exchange of practices, learning, methodologies and tools; to build bridges between organizations and cities in the global south.
- 2 Identify high-impact innovation experiences in different contexts in the global south.
- 3 Co-construct a Global South innovation agenda in relation to the thematic axes of CILA.
- 4 Disseminate practices, actions, useful tools and events of organizations and cities to enhance community participation and positioning.

If you think that CILA and its community are the space for you visit our website and find out how to stay in touch!

RELIVE THE EVENT WITH [OUR VIDEO](#)

Find out more about CILA at
www.cilaglobal.org





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