



UCLG - CITY
OF BOGOTÁ
**PEACE
PRIZE**

Co-financed by the Provincial
Council of Barcelona, with expertise
of PAX and VNG International

UCLG City of Bogotá Peace Prize

Jury report, 14 October 2016

Context

In total, 46 applications for the UCLG City of Bogotá Peace Prize have been received from all over the world. Out of these applications the high-level jury of the prize has selected five top contenders. These local governments were invited to send representatives to Bogotá to present their case for the jury and audience at the UCLG World Congress, which took place from 12-15 October. The finals of the Peace Prize took place on 13 October, and the jury convened on the morning of 14 October to determine the winner of the prize. This document provides insight in the opinion of the jury and the motivation to select the municipality of Kauswagan from the Philippines as the winner of the first UCLG Peace Prize.

The Jury

The jury of the UCLG City of Bogotá Peace Prize consists of the following people:

- Mr. Wim Deetman, Former mayor The Hague, former chair of the UCLG Committee on City Diplomacy
- Dr. Tarik Kupusović, former Mayor of Sarajevo
- Prof. Rafael Grasa, Professor of International Relations of Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and former President of the International Catalan Institute for Peace
- Dr. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, Deputy Director of UN Habitat, Former Mayor of Kigali
- Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, former Joint Special Representative of the UN and the Arab League in Syria, former UN Special Envoy in Iraq, former UN Special Representative in Afghanistan
- Dr. Tadatoshi Akiba, former Mayor of Hiroshima, and former president of Mayors for Peace
- Ms. Janny Vlietstra, former Senator in the Netherlands, former Mayor and former Vice-President of the Municipal Platform for Peace

This jury was represented at the UCLG Congress by Dr. Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, Prof. Rafael Grasa and Ms. Janny Vlietstra. As delegation of the jury, they received the full mandate of the other jury members to choose the winner on their behalf. The jury meeting was chaired by Ton Rombouts, Mayor of 's Hertogenbosch, Chair of the Commission for International and European Affairs of the Association of Netherlands Municipalities and Vice-Chair of the UCLG Committee on Development Cooperation and City Diplomacy. Daan Stelder of the Peace Prize secretariat was present to provide further support.

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Jury opinion

The jury members express their strong appreciation of all finalists' projects and presentations. All five shortlisted local governments showcased inspiring examples of the diverse range of ways in which local governments can contribute to peacebuilding and peacemaking at the local level. Every single one of these local governments is therefore considered to be of the quality of a winner, and deemed worthy of recognition and support. The jury commends the local government staff involved for their resolve and creativity in contributing to the prevention and resolution of conflict, and fostering a culture of peace at the local government level.

While all finalists displayed a quality that deserves the spotlight, the UCLG City of Bogotá Peace Prize ultimately can only have one winning candidate. The jury has selected the municipality of Kauswagan from the Philippines as the winner of this first edition of the prize. In making the selection, the jury had the following considerations. Please note that the order in which the finalists are mentioned is that in which they presented their cases, and thus does not represent any qualitative ranking.

Canoas

The city of Canoas in Brazil combines initiatives in technology, social inclusion and community policing to address causes of violence in target areas dubbed *Peace Territories*. The initiative was presented by Mr. Alberto Koppitke, Ethnic Affairs Advisor at the city of Canoas.

The jury is impressed by the commitment displayed by the local government in Canoas and by the presenter himself. The context in which the approach has been developed was difficult. The city of Canoas indeed faced considerable challenges and followed up really well. The project is highly sustainable and the local government managed to make strong connections with civil society in its implementation. The impact of the initiative is very strong, though displayed more in quantitative than in qualitative terms. Diverse as it is, the project provides an integrated approach to urban peace and security. The approach is relatively a classic one, and thus limited in terms of innovation, however this makes the project highly replicable. This approach to peace and security can be applied in cities all over the world. We recommend a systematization and wide diffusion of the experience.

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Cali

The city government of Cali, Colombia, organizes workshops for children and parents while training community mediators and social workers to promote peace in the community. The approach was presented by Ms. Rocio Gutierrez Cely, Peace Advisor at the City of Cali.

The initiative of the City of Cali displayed an inclusive approach to fostering peace. The presenter demonstrated true leadership and strong commitment, although there is some concern that the mayor was absent at the session. One aspect of the approach of Cali that the jury was particularly impressed by is that it has a specific angle on gender and youth empowerment. The project also differentiates for various age groups in its approach with children, which contributes to its quality. There is a strong human aspect to the initiative; the local government is capable of capturing the human process of building back peace. The impact of the project is great, and clear more at the level of the people and children involved than in structural terms. The way in which training and the capturing of stories is set up has strong innovative qualities. It is a strong but rather young initiative, and would benefit from a more clear analytical and conceptual framework; this way it could grow further to be an excellent initiative. The project is replicable and can be of value to other cities as well.

Kauswagan – winner of the first UCLG Peace Prize

In Kauswagan in the Philippines, the municipality is active in the demobilization and reintegration of former rebel fighters, engaging them in organic farming through its From Arms to Farms programme. The programme was presented by Mayor Rommel C. Arnado of Kauswagan.

The programme presented shows clear commitment from both the local government and the mayor himself, and courageous leadership in the face of inequality. Participation of the population is strong and the initiative is inclusive in its approach. The very specific context of the project makes it replicable on a more abstract level, as a conceptual approach that requires tailoring to different contexts. The municipality used what is perhaps the most important tool that it had available: fair treatment in terms of human rights, jobs and opportunities. What impressed the jury most is that the local government of Kauswagan managed to bridge the relation between peace and socioeconomic development by looking beyond the symptoms of conflict and addressing the root causes of violence. As the mayor of Kauswagan put it: “without food there can be no peace”. By alleviating poverty and increasing food security, the local government worked towards an inclusive peace that is more than the absence of violence but encompasses equality in socioeconomic opportunities. Combined with the strong impact of the project on multiple levels, this approach makes the municipality of Kauswagan the winner of the first edition of the UCLG Peace Prize.

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Palmira

The municipality of Palmira, Colombia, hosts its *Palmira, tu Voz es Paz* urban music competition to raise young people's awareness of the importance of living together peacefully. The project was presented by Mayor Jairo Ortega Samboni of the City of Palmira.

Palmira municipality has sent a strongly motivated delegation that radiated enthusiasm for their initiative. The music competition embodies a positive approach, preemptively focusing on the potential of youth and encouraging them to discover their talents, because, finally, competition is a tool for empowerment and particularly cooperation and solidarity. It is a strong showcase of the way in which music and sports can be drivers for peace. The way in which the project is executed and promoted is very attractive. As the mayor put it, 'changing the chip in young people' by appealing to their talents to encourage them to contribute to a culture of peace, is very worthwhile. Participation of the community is strong, and so is the commitment of the municipality and its leadership. The impact of the project looks high, however the project is still rather young. As the project has started in 2016, it is difficult to already draw conclusions on its impact. The municipality is encouraged to apply again for future editions of the prize.

Shabunda

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the local authority of Shabunda created *Permanent Peace Committees* to establish peace, restore government authority, and reintegrate militia members into the community. The initiative was presented by Mr Daniel Eloko, Administrateur de Territoire of Shabunda.

What made the territoire of Shabunda stand out for the jury was the extremely difficult context in which the local authorities had to operate. The part of Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo is uniquely vulnerable, and the project has to deal with issues that are far greater than the powers that the local government has available. The presentation showed passionate and courageous leadership in bringing peace and stability to the region. The presenter managed to turn an emotional concept into a tangible action agenda. The project led to very tangible results in terms of peace and security in the region. Participation in the project and the diagnostics of the problem are strong. The jury commends the good work done so far in the face of extreme challenges. The project would benefit from a more clear general framework and methodology which may require strengthening of the local government across the board. As a leader, the presenter has a lot of potential, while it is important that the project is also anchored strongly institutionally in the local government of Shabunda. Finally, the project makes a good connection between establishing peace and development.

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