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### OPEN SESSION – REPORTING BACK

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>HUMAN RIGHTS CITIES IN ACTION: BRING RIGHTS TO THE PEOPLE</b>
<b>HOST AND CO-HOST ORGANISER(S)</b>	CITY OF VIENNA CITY OF UTRECHT RAOUL WALLENBERG INSTITUTE EU AGENCY FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS
<b>DATE AND TIME</b>	

#### WHAT WERE THE 3 KEY MESSAGES OF YOUR OPEN SESSION? WHICH CONCLUSIONS WERE DRAWN?

1. Cities have the duty to implement, protect and promote human rights. Human rights cities are self-proclaimed cities which express their commitment to fulfilling human rights. The Human Rights Cities initiative is a powerful approach to enable a human rights-based approach into municipal work and empower the population towards fulfilling rights for all. National actors, such as governments, association of municipalities, or national human rights institutions are welcome to support cities' initiatives.
2. Human rights cities are very much "champions" for human rights in Europe. However, many human rights actors are still unaware of the initiative of human rights cities and how they contribute to human rights in Europe. Human rights actors, at all levels of governance, could collaborate with human rights cities.
3. Sustainable Development Goals SDGs are practical tools to support the implementation of human rights. Hence, SDGs can be helpful for cities to understand and implement human rights locally.

#### WHAT ARE THE 3 KEY RECOMMENDATIONS AND WHICH NEXT STEPS ARE PROPOSED? (PLEASE INDICATE WHO EACH RECOMMENDATION IS TARGETED AT – EG: THE EU SHOULD...)

1. The EU and FRA, in cooperation with other partners, should facilitate the exchange of promising practices and know-how between human rights cities and help them to systematically promote human rights standards and develop simple accountability mechanisms.
2. National governments and associations of municipalities should promote human rights locally and take initiatives to support cities to become a human rights cities, building upon the Swedish example (See promising practice below).
3. Human rights cities should consider formalising the exchange of practices among themselves, this as a way towards more empowerment of cities in human rights.

**As part of the follow up/next steps after my session, my organization will continue collaborating with other human rights cities in Europe.**

**As part of the follow up/next steps after my session, I believe, FRA should support and facilitate the exchange of practices and know-how of human rights cities in Europe.**

#### WHICH GOOD PRACTICES OR NEW INSIGHTS WERE GIVEN? DID YOU DISCOVER ANY NEW POTENTIAL PARTNERS TO WORK WITH FOR YOUR ISSUE?

**Vienna:** The establishment of a Human Rights Office in Vienna for more visibility for the commitment of the city to human rights. Vienna also consider human rights as **cross-cutting approach** throughout municipal departments e.g., in the areas of the rights of the child or security and safety from human

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rights perspectives and the promotion of human rights for all. In the past months combines Vienna the implementation of sustainable development goals through implementation of the declaration of human rights city and "Smart City" concept.

**Utrecht:** the City of Utrecht commitment to Sustainable Development goals with a variety of projects including campaign for residents and entrepreneurs "Utrecht4GlobalGoals", a funding scheme to contribute to the realization of SDGs in Utrecht or internationally or the "Local Human Rights Coalition" to connect local organisations with global goals. <https://www.utrecht4globalgoals.nl/>

**Human rights cities in Sweden:** the **Swedish Association of Local and Regional Authorities (SALAR)** set-up an agreement with the **Raoul Wallenberg Institute** in 2016. This helped define what is a human rights city in the Swedish context, building upon a co-creative process. A **platform of human rights cities in Sweden** was created to be a tool for cities and regions in Sweden to strengthen their work on human rights and support cities and regions wanting to become a human rights city. <http://rwi.lu.se/the-swedish-human-rights-city-project/> . See also the Publication "Human rights cities and the SDGs": <http://rwi.lu.se/publications/human-rights-cities-and-the-sdgs/>

**FRA and the City of Vienna policy lab on Human Rights Cities**, 23-24 May 2018. See Annex (pages 93-94): [https://www.bmeia.gv.at/fileadmin/user\\_upload/Zentrale/Aussenpolitik/Menschenrechte/Vienna\\_25\\_conference\\_brochure.pdf](https://www.bmeia.gv.at/fileadmin/user_upload/Zentrale/Aussenpolitik/Menschenrechte/Vienna_25_conference_brochure.pdf)